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THE MILITARY SITUATION. SHERMAN'S DEPARTMENT.

NO doubt now remains of the actual march of the triumphant SHERMAN in the direction indicated by us a fortnight since. Like everything else undertaken by that matchless soldier, his first move has been simple, noiseless, bold and successful. It has already been recorded that a part of LOGAN'S Fifteenth and BLAIR'S Seventeenth corps, of HOWARD'S wing, had been moved across from Savannah to Beaufort in transports. While SHERMAN was coming down through Georgia, General FOSTER organized his troops for a grand cooperative movement, to seize the Charleston and Savannah Road. He did not succeed in getting it; but, after two attempts, the first of them ending with the check at Honey Hill, his troops, Admiral DAHLGREN cooperating, conquered a position by which the road could be partially commanded. The great position, however, to be seized was the celebrated Pocotaligo Bridge, the most important military point on the railroad. Here the enemy had always kept a strong garrison, which repulsed us with severe loss whenever we attempted to seize the bridge. On arriving at Savannah, SHERMAN undertook to carry the bridge, as the first step in the campaign: it need hardly be added that it at once fell into our possession, with but small loss to our Army.

On Friday, the 13th, the advance from Beaufort commenced. HATCH'S division was already occupying a position not far from the bridge, with their guns turned on the railroad. The Seventeenth corps crossed Port Royal Ferry on a pontoon bridge laid by the Engineer corps; and marched swiftly, but cautiously, to the railroad. The enemy's pickets were soon aroused, and attempted some skirmishing, but were pushed off without trouble. On the 15th, with the Seventeenth corps on the left, and HATCH'S troops on the right, after slight resistance, the railroad was gained, a little south of the bridge. Our skirmishers dashed lightly ahead, encountered the enemy's, who were supported with light artillery, swept them off, gained the bridge, and a brigade of the Seventeenth charged and carried it, together with the earthworks at the further end. According to some accounts, no less than 12 heavy guns (which the enemy had spiked) fell into our hands; one of the earthworks carrying seven, and the other five. The great bridge, which, with the trestle-work in the swamp on either side is fully a mile in length, fell into our hands. The enemy, finding he must give up the work he had so long defended, tried to burn it. But our men were too quick for him and saved it. Our loss was only about 50 killed and wounded. Lieutenant CHANDLER, of General BLAIR'S staff, was killed while leading a gallant and victorious charge.

The enemy's force consisted of General McLAW'S detachment of HARDEN'S forces; and were pushed out of Pocotaligo, the Seventeenth corps occupying the railroad from the Coosawatchie to the Talla-

hatchie. So soon as this lodgment was effected, SHERMAN sent the First and Third divisions of GEARY'S Twentieth corps, of SLOCUM'S column, across the Savannah, so as to hold the railroad continuously from Savannah to the lines of the Seventeenth corps. On the 16th, also, the Fifteenth corps embarked at Thunderbolt for Beaufort, whence, doubtless, it will march up to take its appointed position near the Seventeenth corps. And probably the Fourteenth corps and the Second division of the Twentieth corps will cross the Savannah River and extend along the railroad, so soon as reinforcements come down from the North, to garrison Savannah effectually. The enemy has gone across the Salkehatchie; and our cavalry has already trodden close upon his pickets. His main force, outside of Charleston, seems to be at Ashepoo, a point on the railroad, 30 miles south of that city. All our troops are deploying for the grand campaign.

From our Army at Eastport, under General THOMAS, there is little news of importance. It is reported that most of it has gone into winter quarters; and it is rumored that the Twenty-third corps has reinforced Armies on the Atlantic coast. Some of the Tennessee garrisons have rejoined SHERMAN. General MEAGHER has left Chattanooga with a considerable force, ostensibly for Savannah. HOOD'S locality is a little uncertain, but its most probable position is at Okalona, Mississippi. It is well-known that HOOD'S rear guard suffered severely in its retreat from Tennessee; and that, besides its fatigue and want of supplies, it lost heavily from desertion. On the 28th of December, CHEATHAM'S corps was at Iuka, 14 miles from Corinth. General D. H. HILL arrived in Charleston on the 1st, to report to BEAUREGARD. Both left the next Monday on a special train for Montgomery, from whence they will communicate with HOOD. On the 18th, a company of Tennessee cavalry encountered a small force of the enemy, 10 miles out of Columbia, Kentucky, and had a sharp half-hour's skirmish with them, the enemy losing 8, and our men none.

THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

It is well known that the enemy has been lately striving to complete that portion of railroad known as the Piedmont connection, and to reduce it to the same gauge as others. In their great line of Southern communication, extending from Richmond to Augusta, the road is of the same gauge, excepting the Piedmont link, which extends forty-eight miles. It is only necessary to conform the gauge of this forty-eight miles of railroad to that of both its connections, by moving one of its rails three inches and a half, to have a single gauge from Richmond to Atlanta, over which trains may pass without breaking freight. The late heavy rains and the freshet which resulted, broke up temporarily the Piedmont Road between Danville and Greensborough, and thus seriously threatened the main road by which Richmond supplies were obtained. The repairs have now been completed. In the same freshet, the bridge over the Roanoke at Weldon was partially carried away.

On the 16th there was a slight demonstration by a forage party of the enemy on our rear lines, at Wyatt's Farm, on the extreme left, which put apart of the Second corps under arms. They escaped with their forage without provoking a fight. On the 17th, MOTT'S Third division of the Second corps passed a very handsome and creditable review before General HUMPHREYS, each brigade being reviewed separately.

A salute of 100 guns was fired on the right in honor of the victory at Fort Fisher. On the 18th, a foraging party went out beyond MOTT'S picket line, and gathered some of the corn on Colonel WYATT'S farm which the enemy had left. On the 19th and 20th, there was continuous picket firing and shelling in front of Petersburg, and, on the former day, about forty deserters, many badly clothed, came into our lines.

Since the departure of Admiral PORTER'S fleet to Wilmington, the enemy has been preparing his iron-clads in the James for a descent on City Point. Taking advantage of the late freshet, just after midnight on the morning of the 23d, a fleet composed of two or three iron-clads (including the *Richmond* and *Fredricksburgh*) and three other vessels, dropped down the river from their anchorage above the Howlett batteries, ran Fort Brady without being observed, and attempted to pass the obstructions sunk in the river by us, so as to reach City Point. They immediately went to work blowing up the obstructions with torpedoes, and trying to raise the hulks. One or more iron-clads at length got by and engaged our batteries, which were now aroused. Few guns troubled the enemy from the north of the James, but Fort Parsons, on the right of FERRERO'S line, on the south side, opened heavily, and succeeded, it is said, in sinking one gunboat. Fortunately, the whole of the enemy's fleet could not get by the obstructions, and he drew off. The particulars of this affair are confused so far; but what is certain is, that there was some negligence on our part, and but little damage effected by the enemy.

It is now established that our total loss in the assault on Fort Fisher and in the subsequent explosion of the magazine was only about 1,100. Of these casualties, 309 fell upon the Navy. The largest loss sustained by any one regiment was that of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York, which was 139. On the 16th, the enemy blew up Forts Caswell and Campbell, and abandoned them and the works on Smith's Island, and those at Smithville and Reeves' Point. These places were occupied by the Navy. The whole number of guns captured amounts to 162. A large number of small arms also fell into our hands, besides quantities of ordnance and commissary stores. The enemy still holds Fort Andrew. Our forces are actively engaged in removing the torpedoes along the banks of the river, and getting up obstructions. The frigates *Minnesota*, *Wabash*, and *Colorado*, and most of the larger vessels of Admiral PORTER'S fleet have returned, and are now anchored in Hampton Roads.

On the 18th, General PAINE reconnoitred in force towards Wilmington and found the enemy about two miles distant. After a slight skirmish, he fell back to his entrenchments. The same night, three fine steamers, blockade-runners, were captured by the Navy, having unfortunately run into the river before hearing the news from Fort Fisher. A fourth was captured in the same way the evening following. On the 19th, one of our dispatch boats was severely handled by the guns of Fort St. Philip, on the south bank of the river, and forced to return. The same day, General PAINE made another reconnoissance, found the enemy, as before, two miles distant, had another severe skirmish, and retired. In Wilmington, every preparation is making to evacuate, and much public property has already been removed. The *Richmond Examiner* makes a sharp point upon the hero of "a little more grape." It says: "It is rumored General BRAGG telegraphed to the War Department, on yesterday,

"that he is confident of his ability to hold Wilmington. His telegram has rendered many people quite uneasy, and at once gave occasion to reports about the insecurity of Wilmington, which have no other foundation."

We are happy to supply the name of the commander of the *Tuscarora*, which was with the middle division in the bombardment—Captain JAMES MADISON FRILEY. We were unable to recall it last week.

From the Valley news comes that the cavalry expedition of 500 men, consisting of detachments of the Eighth Illinois, under Colonel OLENDENIN, and the Thirteenth and Sixteenth New York, under Colonel GANSEVOORT, which started from Prospect Hill, has returned, having scouted through Fairfax and Loudoun counties, as far up as Warrenton. They found no large bodies of Rebels in arms, but brought in 52 horses and eleven prisoners. General EARLY, before the Richmond Senate, lately said that the charge of drunkenness brought against him is utterly baseless. He says that since he recrossed the Potomac, his troops have fought five battles and had a great number of skirmishes. In the first two of these battles the enemy was defeated; in the second two his troops were defeated by overwhelming numbers; but he affirms that the enemy's loss was more than three times his own. In the fifth and last battle he states that a victory was obtained which would have more than compensated for the previous defeats had the troops remained steadfast; but it was lost and given up by the bad conduct of the troops, resulting from a want of discipline which is inherent in their whole system of organization.

Our readers have already learned that General ROSSEN crossed the mountains, and captured Beverly, Randolph county, including its garrison of seven hundred men, a large amount of commissary and quartermaster's stores, and a great number of horses. Of this disgraceful affair the *Wheeling Intelligencer* gives the following details:—"The attack was made about three o'clock on Wednesday morning the 11th. The garrison was asleep in their winter quarters and there were no pickets out further than three hundred yards from the camp. The Rebels charged right into the midst of the sleeping soldiers, and captured one half of the garrison before the other half knew anything about the attack. It is said that the Rebels actually went about kicking on the doors of the huts, rudely requesting the 'd—d blue bellies' to get up and take a trip to Richmond. One lieutenant belonging to the Eighth Ohio cavalry rallied a number of men, engaged the Rebels and drove them from the bridge, allowing a hundred or so of our confused soldiers to escape. In this fight a few men were killed upon each side, and a Rebel colonel named CASHAW, who is still at Beverly, was seriously wounded. A portion of the enemy remained in Beverly until the afternoon of Thursday, and robbed the citizens of money, clothing and valuables. They destroyed the bridge over the Valley River, and set fire to the town in several places; but some of his soldiers had formerly resided in Beverly and the fire was extinguished by these men. It is asserted that the enemy had nearly as many prisoners as he had men to guard them. No doubt is entertained but the garrison could have handsomely defeated the attacking party if they had the slightest intimation of their approach."

From Newbern we learn that on the 14th instant, the enemy appeared in front of the Twelfth New York cavalry pickets, with a small force of cavalry, artillery and infantry. About midnight the vidette deserted, and came into our lines with their horses and equipments. The enemy then fell back. Deserters are coming into our lines every day. Last week a lieutenant and eleven men came into the post at Bachelor's Creek with their horses and equipments. The steamer *Mystic*, sent out from Newbern to Washington, N. C., having on board several women and citizens, when by the wharf of the town was fired upon. Although the range was short, and the enemy fired upwards of a hundred shots, there were but two casualties to the passengers of the boat. Colonel MCCHESENEY and a citizen were slightly wounded.

GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

In answer to many inquiries, and for the information of the service generally, we give below a digest of the laws, articles of war and general orders of the War Department, on some points relating to courts-martial:

Who may appoint a General Court-Martial.

1. The President of the United States, whose orders in this respect are usually issued in the name of the Secretary of War.
2. A general officer commanding an army.*
3. A Colonel commanding a separate Department.*
4. In time of war, the commander of a division or separate brigade.†
5. The commander of a post or district having no brigade organization, where the command is composed of mixed troops equivalent to a brigade, and the commanding officer of the department or army designates it in orders as "a separate brigade." A copy of such order must accompany the proceedings of every general court martial convened by such brigade commander.‡

Action of the authority that appointed the court on the record of its proceedings.

No sentence of a general court-martial shall be carried into execution until after the whole proceedings shall have been laid before the officer ordering the same, or the officer commanding the troops for the time being, for his action.* If the proceedings are approved by him, and he has legal authority to order the execution of the sentence, he should endorse on the record his confirmation of the proceedings, and orders for the execution of the sentence, and promulgate his action in general orders. If he approves the proceedings, but has not the legal power to confirm and order the execution of the sentence, he should endorse his approval, and forward the record to the authority having the power of confirmation and execution.

A disapproval of the proceedings by the appointing authority terminates the case, and the accused is thereupon entitled to be released from arrest, and, if an officer or soldier, to be restored to duty. The disapproval and proper orders should be endorsed on the record and promulgated in general orders.

Action on records referred by the authority appointing the court in cases where the confirmation of the sentence is not within his jurisdiction.

Where the confirmation of a sentence is not within legal jurisdiction of the authority that appointed the court, and is referred to higher authority having such jurisdiction, the authority having such jurisdiction should review the proceedings, and, if he approves, should confirm them and order the sentence to be carried into execution; if he disapproves the proceedings, the accused should be released from arrest, and, if an officer or soldier, restored to duty. The decision and orders should be endorsed on the record, and promulgated in general orders.

Jurisdiction of commanders as to confirmation and execution of sentences.

1. No sentence respecting a general officer shall be carried into execution until after the whole proceedings shall have been transmitted to the Secretary of War, to be laid before the President of the United States for his confirmation or disapproval, and orders in the case.*
2. No sentence of death by such court shall be carried into execution until the sentence shall have been approved by the President, and its execution ordered by him,* except such sentence be against a person convicted as a spy or deserter, or of mutiny or murder. Sentences of death in punishment for these specified crimes may be carried into execution upon the approval of the commanding general in the field, or the commander of the department, as the case may be.‡
3. A sentence of such court extending to the dismissal of a commissioned officer, in order to its execution, shall require the confirmation of the general commanding the army in the field to which the division or brigade of the officer appointing the court belongs.†
4. All other sentences may be confirmed and executed by the officer ordering the court to assemble, or the commanding officer for the time being, as the case may be.*

Thus it appears there are but three sentences which any officer having authority to appoint a general court-martial may not confirm and execute: 1st, A sentence respecting a general officer; 2d, A sentence of death; and 3d, A sentence of dismissal of a commissioned officer.

Who may pardon or mitigate punishment.

1. The President of the United States.
2. Every officer authorized to order a general court-martial has power to pardon or mitigate any punishment ordered by such court, except the sentence of death or cashiering or dismissing an officer, which sentences it shall be competent during the continuance of the present Rebellion for the general commanding the army in the field or the department commander, as the case may be, to remit or mitigate.‡

The War Department has issued an order prohibiting, under pain of dismissal from the Army, officers from giving information concerning the sentence of civilians by military commissions before the execution of the sentence. Upon the representation of the facts a number sentenced to the penitentiary have been pardoned by the President, and this order is calculated to get the prisoners fully incarcerated before their friends may be able to ascertain the necessity of appealing to the Executive.

THE PAY OF OFFICERS.

This subject of the increase of pay of officers of the Army has been undergoing discussion for several months, yet it does not appear that members of Congress have been fully convinced of either its necessity or justice. One argument used in opposition is that, if the pay of officers is increased, that of enlisted men must also be increased, and then, proceeding upon this hypothesis, it is said "that the Government cannot stand it." To this argument we beg to reply that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," and that the Government should never require men to render services for less than they are worth. The Government is truly in a deplorable condition if it cannot afford to pay men qualified to discharge the duties of high and responsible positions, salaries commensurate with the services rendered. To fail in this is to be unjust in the highest degree, and to act in direct antagonism to the genius of our institutions. It is true that men should sacrifice much to their country in times of great trial; but in this, certainly, the officers of the Army have not been found wanting. They have not only sacrificed the comforts of home and home ties, but many have sacrificed life, many limb, and many health. Many of them, too, on entering service, gave up lucrative positions or business. They have never hesitated to risk their all for their country, neither have they neglected or refused to pay the assessments made against them, or to give of their means to as great an extent as any other class of individuals.

The argument that Congress dare not increase the pay of officers without increasing the pay of enlisted men, is made up of very flimsy material, for the truth is, this same Congress has heretofore increased the pay of enlisted men, and they are now only asked to do for the officer what they have already done for the man. If the argument is good in one case it is in the other, yet it was never made in favor of the officer. It is not generally understood that there has been any large increase of pay to the enlisted men of the Army, but it has been several times increased since the commencement of the present war, and we now propose to show when, how, and to what extent.

On the 15th of April, 1861, when the President made his first call for troops, the pay of a private soldier was eleven dollars per month for infantry, and twelve for cavalry, clothing two dollars and fifty cents per month, and one ration in kind; but as we do not propose to bring clothing and rations into the account, we will drop them, merely observing that the clothing allowance was increased May 25, 1861, to three dollars and fifty cents per month, and that the price of the ration to the Government has nearly or quite doubled without any increased cost to the soldier. As the pay of infantry and cavalry was assimilated soon after the war commenced, we will only speak of the pay of the private soldier or enlisted man.

Let us commence then with the first call of the President, which offered to volunteer soldiers a bounty of \$100. April 15th, 1861, the pay of a private was \$11 per month, and \$100 bounty, making the whole pay for three years \$496. On the 22d of July, 1861, a law was passed providing for the payment of the bounty to volunteers, and about the same time a law granting \$100 bounty to regulars, enlisting after July 1st, 1861. On the 6th of August the pay was increased to \$13 per month, bounty \$100, making the whole pay for three years \$568.

This law remained in force until June 20th, 1864, when another law referring back to May 1st, 1864, was passed, increasing the pay to \$16 per month. In the meantime, however, June 25th, 1863, a general order was issued providing for the enlistment of able-bodied men who had served at least nine months, and giving them a bounty of \$400 for three years' service, payable in installments. The pay being \$13 per month, or \$468 for three years, and the bounty \$400, the whole pay for three years amounted to \$868.

September 11, 1863, a general order was issued authorizing the reenlistment of all men then in service who had less than one year to serve after the 25th of that month, and allowing them the bounties prescribed in General Order 191 of June 25th, 1863, making the total pay and bounty for three years' service under this order \$868. Such men, having served two years under their original enlistment, received \$312 pay and \$100 bounty, being in all \$412 for two years' service.

After October 24, 1863, recruits, *not veterans*, for old regiments, were allowed \$300 bounty, payable in installments, and after December 24, 1863, recruits, *not veterans*, for new regiments, were allowed the bounty of \$300 payable in installments, being \$468 pay and \$300 bounty; in all for three years' service, \$768.

Enlistments under these several orders continued until April 1st, 1864. They were commenced under general orders without any act of Congress authorizing them, but in December, 1863, Congress passed a joint resolution endorsing the action of the Secretary of War, and continuing them until the date above given, thus virtually by their own act, increasing the pay of private soldiers.

* 65th Article of War.
† Act of Congress, App. Dec. 24, 1861, Rev. Reg's, p. 523.
‡ General Orders 251, of 1864, War Dept's.
§ 21st Sec. of Act of Congress, App. March 3, 1863, Rev. Reg's, p. 541. Also 1st Sec. of Act App. July 2, 1864, G. O. 231 of 1864, War Dept., p. 4.
|| 2d Sec. of Act of Congress App. July 2, 1864, G. O. 231 of 1864, War Dept., p. 4.

THE Department of the South, under the command of Major-General FORREAN, has been extended so as to embrace the States of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

On the 20th of June, 1864, Congress passed the law before referred to, increasing the pay of the private soldier to \$16 per month, so that the two classes referred to, veterans and veteran recruits, receive after that date pay at the rate of \$576 and \$400 bounty for three years, or in all \$976, and the third class, recruits not veterans, receive \$16 per month, \$576 for three years, and \$300 bounty, in all \$876.

On the 18th July, 1864, by authority of Congress, the PRESIDENT called for three hundred thousand troops, to serve one, two, or three years, as they might elect, giving \$100 bounty for one year, \$200 for two years, and \$300 for three years, payable in installments, one-third at beginning, one-third at middle, and one-third at end of service, or \$876 for three years.

On the 1st of December, 1864, General HANCOCK's veteran corps was authorized, giving \$300 bonus, \$300 bounty, \$16 per month, in all \$1176.

In order that the increase may be more readily comprehended, we attach the following synopsis:

Class of Troops—Private Soldier.	Date when rate of pay commenced.	Monthly Pay.	Bounty for 3 years.	Total pay & bounty.	Average per month.
Volunteers (no bounty allowed before)...	April 15, 1861.	\$11	\$100	\$496	\$13 77
Regulars (no bounty allowed before)...	July 1, "	11	100	496	13 77
Regulars and Volunteers...	Aug. 6, "	13	100	496	15 77
Veteran Recruits for Reg'ts and Vols...	June 25, 1863.	13	400	868	24 11
Veterans—men in service—re-enlisting...	Sept. 22, "	13	400	868	24 11
Vols. discharged to re-enlist, having served 2 years...	"	13	100	412	17 16
Recruits for old reg'ts—not vet's...	Oct. 24, "	13	3 0	768	21 33
" new "...	Dec. 24, "	13	300	768	21 33
Vets. and Vet. Recruits...	May 1, 1864.	16	400	976	27 11
Recruits—not veterans...	July 18, "	16	300	876	24 33
Under President's Call for 300,000...	July 18, "	16	300	876	24 33
General Hancock's Veteran Corps...	Dec. 1, "	16	600	1176	32 66

Thus it will be seen that Congress has since the commencement of the war several times increased the pay of the private soldier. They now receive, with the increase of clothing allowance, from the United States, more than twice the amount they did under the laws and orders of April 15, 1861.

In addition to the largely-increased pay granted by Congress, nearly every enlisted man receives a large local bounty. The local bounty paid ranges from \$300 to \$1,200, and this may be fairly counted as a portion of the pay of the private soldier. In nearly all of the States, laws have been passed, levying a tax for the support of soldiers' families, and in every county, town and village are aid and relief societies. It is true that the Government does not sustain these societies or pay the local bounties, but in all cases the money is provided by those who must eventually redeem our paper currency, so in fact it all comes from the same fountain head, and is the pay of the soldier. We do not complain of this, we endorse it, yet we do not think it just that all increase of pay should be to the enlisted man.

Congressmen say they dare not increase the pay of the officers without also increasing that of enlisted men. Do they forget that they have already doubled the pay of the enlisted man by legislation and trebled or quadrupled it by the payment of local bounties? As they have dared to do this, why not dare to do justice to men who have been serving their country for three years for inadequate compensation, and now for the first time petition for an increase?

The position of an officer is not only a responsible, but also a respectable one, and any one filling such a position should receive sufficient compensation to enable him to live respectably. There is a distinction between a private soldier and a commissioned officer that must be kept up, else discipline ceases. The officer should not be compelled to beg the private's rations or borrow his money, but without sufficient pay to support himself and family, he is frequently compelled to do it or go hungry. The sutler will credit him if he agrees to pay the prices demanded, but the credit only lasts until the amount of his two months' pay is reached. The commissary, having only government supplies, dare not sell to him upon credit without a special order to do so. The family of the officer receives no relief from the aid societies, or from the State fund, because every body supposes that a commissioned officer can live upon his salary. So he could, had not prices doubled to his family and trebled to him. The consequence is, that he is not able to live as he wishes to, as he is expected to, or as he should.

Officers do not ask for an increase of pay in proportion to that granted to enlisted men, but they are entitled to a reasonable increase, have a right to ask for it, and it is the duty of Congress to grant it.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

HISTORY OF THE GREAT WAR OF THE PEASANTS OF GERMANY, in the time of LUTHER, during the years 1525-6, by ALEXANDER WEILL, published at Paris in 1862. The peasant war was a perfect type of the great French Revolution. It originated in the same oppressions of castes, hierarchies and aristocracies. The story of the German peasants' wrongs and sufferings is a repetition of the bitter experiences of the laboring classes of France, the merciless persecutions, oppressions, and exactions of privileged classes. Think of a petty country squire having the right to call

upon an executioner to cut off the head of a poor country laborer for taking a few shrimps out of a pond on his domains, and of the judicial murder being carried into effect! This is one instance among a million, and by no means as revolting as a thousand other of the atrocities which roused up the sympathies of men competent to lead, and the passions of thousands competent to feel, both of whom witnessed and felt such wrongs. The great German peasant war, like the last war of the Cevennes or peasants' war of Languedoc, in France (1702-10), was a purely people's war, a war carried on in support of human rights. It failed because LUTHER was untrue to his own principles, or rather too much terrified by the storm he had raised to meet it like a man, and regulate and guide it like a Reformer. He displayed neither justice nor moral courage, and his disciples emulated his timidity, forgetting that LUTHER himself was the son of a peasant and a laborer. He cast his lot with the princes who crushed the very class from which he sprang. "The world's history is the world's consistory," says SCHILLER. The true men of the people, the honest disciples of truth, the veritable apostles of liberty, will yet receive the righteous judgment due to their merits and their sacrifices.

The history of the great German peasant war is the history of every people's war which deems that it can clasp hands with the classes who must suffer by its triumph. It undertook to lean upon the professed amity of the intolerant self-seeking burghers and the delusive sympathy of oily-tongued nobles, and found the prop a PHARAOH'S reed. The German revolution of 1525 failed, and the seed was trampled deep into the soil which was enriched by its blood and its carcasses. That seed has germinated here and there, but much of it still remains hidden. One of its crops was the Thirty Years' War, another the French Revolution, another the political regeneration and struggles of recent years. The great harvest still remains to grow and ripen, although some of the seeds, wafted by the winds of heaven, are now bearing fruit an hundred fold upon this continent. Perhaps the recent Bull of the Pope will serve as a flash of lightning to set loose the shower destined to soften the glebes and permit the seed once more to shoot forth in Europe. Men talk lightly of an "irrepressible conflict," without thinking whence and where that conflict originated. Its origin is Divine, its result must be universal, and liberty throughout the world will be the consummation of all things as regards man, and this his sphere.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN NAVY-YARDS.

AMONGST the documents accompanying the Report of the Secretary of the Navy is a carefully prepared report by Chief Engineer J. W. KING, U. S. N., on the dockyards and iron works of Great Britain and France. Mr. KING was sent to Europe by the Navy Department with especial reference to obtaining information which might be used in establishing our proposed iron-clad navy-yard. The length of the report forbids our giving more than its concluding words:

We have neither such dock-yards as are to be found in England or France, nor such a collection of iron ship building yards as there is in Great Britain; the combined capabilities of all the iron yards within our limits not being equal to the first of the great iron ship building yards on the river Thames. The materials, of superior variety, we have in abundance, the resources of the Nation in iron and coal being unlimited; but a proper constructive yard capable of turning out iron ships of any class is wanting. Under existing circumstances the best of our private yards could not construct one such vessel as the British frigate *Achilles* within three or four years; several iron gunboats, which were contracted for more than two years ago, are not yet completed, and will not be for some months. Truly, therefore, may it be said, the want of a proper constructive iron yard is a national misfortune.

For the location of such a yard we have advantages, in our great rivers, not possessed by any European nation. In an entirely secure position, far from the sea, in fresh water, and within easy reach of iron and coal, an iron yard may be erected. These advantages are weighty, and cannot be overestimated; still we have another advantage, the rise and fall of our tides being comparatively so small, we do not necessarily require basin accommodations—the most expensive of European dock-yard constructions—all we need in this regard being a position affording ample wharfage room.

Location does not belong properly to the subject-matter of this report, but cannot be considered entirely foreign to it, because it is the first and most important consideration. Government officials in England and France were free in expressing their opinions to me, that since the invention of guns capable of propelling destructive projectiles several miles, and the construction of armored ships, an inland location for a great dock-yard becomes almost imperative.

The advantages of fresh water for iron vessels to lie in when repairing and fitting out, is another point to be considered, for it must be remembered that the adhesion of barnacles, oysters and mussels to the bottoms of iron vessels, whilst lying still in sea-water, is rapid and excessive; in fresh water the iron is entirely free from them.

In England, after an iron war vessel is prepared for sea it becomes a necessity to dock her previous to sailing, for which there is ample provision; each dock-yard having a number of stone dry docks, at present 32 in all, but will soon number 44, besides as many belonging to private yards. On the Mersey alone are 24 dry or graving docks,

sight of which are each upwards of 400 feet long; seven, each 600 feet; and two, each 750 feet; the latter capable of taking in two vessels at a time.

At present we have three stone dry docks and three floating docks belonging to the Navy. Location being decided on, the second subject for consideration is the plan, and the creation of the works the third. Here grave responsibilities have to be incurred; such an important subject, in the shape of construction, has never yet been presented for the consideration of the Department.

Our present navy yards have become what they are by gradual process of accretion, partly of permanent and partly of make-shift additions; the latter forced by war, the former in the more orderly schemes of peace. The total expenditure has been large, but the results comparatively small. None of them are sufficient for present requirements, being of small dimensions, and not possessing facilities for rapid and economical construction or repair and equipment.

The navy yard at Philadelphia does not cover as much ground as the basin water area in any one of the principal European dock-yards; it has only two covered building slips, with the necessary wood-work shops and storehouses; and is not provided with any stone docks or means of repairing steam machinery.

The New York yard, the most important, does not at present cover more than twelve acres; it is provided with one stone dry dock and two building-slips, with ship-houses over them; the necessary wood-work shops, including a saw-mill, improperly prepared for heavy work on the upper, and light work on the lower floor; a smithery, foundry, boiler shop and machine shop; all improperly located, inferiorly arranged, and not possessing facilities for conveying materials and finished work to the vessels at the wharves or from one to another.

The smithery was formerly always filled with smoke, and the machine-shop building was, until I caused several internal alterations to be made, unfit for the purpose, and after all, is but a make-shift. Our new navy yard should therefore be a magnificent establishment, with capacity commensurate with, and sufficient to meet the demands of, a great naval power. It should be a model in perfection of detail in all its branches and as a whole, and so substantial as to endure for generations. In laying out the works, the judicious arrangement of the building, separately and collectively, the proper adaptation and distribution of machinery, tools and appliances, and the conveniences within and without the docks, building-slips and buildings, will in a very large degree depend on whether ships of war are to be built and equipped rapidly and economically, or slowly and extravagantly.

It is estimated by the British dock-yard engineers, that with the same number of men, and in a given time, 60 per cent. more work is accomplished by means of their improved facilities than was twelve years ago. The importance, therefore, of exercising great care in laying out and constructing the new works must be seen.

The mode adopted by the British admiralty for securing plans for their great Chatham factory works was as follows:—An able dock-yard chief-engineer was selected and ordered to examine all the important engine factories and iron works in Europe, after which to make the general plans; this being accomplished and the drawings submitted to the admiralty, a board of five competent engineers were ordered to examine and decide on their merits and alter or revise or make new plans. The board adopted the original plans with alterations, after which they were approved and the works commenced. As previously stated, these works are designed to excel in capacity and completeness all similar works in Europe or elsewhere. The plans are good, but not free from criticism. We can, doubtless, originate an establishment that will excel the Chatham works.

In the creation of plans a better course might be pursued, viz: a commission of competent officers entrusted with the work instead of confiding it to one; for, however well qualified one officer may be to plan and arrange a specialty, yet when many branches are to be provided, each requiring peculiar knowledge, attainable only by study and experience, all to harmonize, and the whole, when completed, be faultless, the experience and judgment of several is more than desirable.

THE Senate has ratified the treaties with the Northwestern bands of Shoshonee Indians establishing peace and friendship; the several bands stipulating that hostilities and all depredations upon the emigrant trains, the mail and telegraph lines, and upon citizens of the United States within their country shall cease. The boundaries of their country as claimed and occupied by them are as follows: On the north by the middle of the Great Desert; on the west by Steptoe Valley; on the south by Toedoe or Green Mountains, and on the east by Great Salt Lake, Tuilla and Rush Valleys. The Indians agree to remove to the reservations whenever the PRESIDENT shall deem it expedient for them to do so, and become hardmen or agriculturists, the Government paying them certain annuities in money, provisions and goods. The Indians also agree that the Pacific Railroad shall not be molested, that military posts, etc., may be constructed, the gold and silver mines worked, and mining and agricultural settlements formed, and rancheros established whenever they may be required.

THE Washington National Intelligencer says: "The expedition recently fitted out by the government of Nicaragua for the survey of the river and harbor of San Juan Del Norte (to the importance of which allusion was made in the PRESIDENT's last annual message) sailed from New York on the 20th instant in the Central American Transit Company's steamer *Golden Rule*. The engineer in charge of this expedition is Captain PAXSON C. WEST, of the Coast Survey, who, since the commencement of the war, has been acting as engineer officer in our Army, the greater portion of the time having been spent on the staff of Major-General W. F. SMITH. The ability and intrepidity which fit Captain WEST for his new position are attested by official reports of the various commanders with whom he has served, and to the reports of the Coast Survey during the past ten years."

THE PEACE QUESTION.

THE great anxiety for a speedy termination of the war which exists both here and at the South, is leading many people to over-rate the importance and probable results of the "overtures" now making through the medium of Mr. FRANCIS P. BLAIR—though it is doubtful if they are even worthy of being called "overtures," inasmuch as that implies a readiness on the part of those making them to abandon the arbitrament of arms and depend wholly on a settlement through negotiation. We are quite sure that no one connected with our Government, whose position qualifies him to judge, entertains the serious belief that anything tangible will grow out of the very delicate diplomacy going on between Washington and Richmond. According to our best information, Mr. BLAIR's mission is undertaken with the permission simply of the PRESIDENT, and with no endorsement or authority from him. An experienced politician, like Mr. BLAIR, cannot fail, of course, through those manipulations so expertly used in diplomatic life, to ascertain precisely the views and sentiments of Mr. DAVIS and the other leaders of the Rebellion. We hazard little in predicting that those views will be a reiteration of the demand for independence and recognition. Whether this demand will be made simply as the confirmed and unalterable determination of the insurgent leaders, or for the purpose of extorting ultimately the most liberal concessions from their conquerors, time can only tell. Certainly we need not look for anything but the boldest front from the enemy, whether we encounter him in the field of arms or in the paths to peace.

But the most significant thing connected with this peace question, is the fact that it is agitated so vigorously, not to say vehemently, far and wide, among the people, and to some extent among the public men, of the South. Whatever may be DAVIS's personal action and desires, this agitation must seriously embarrass him, and in the end give him an enemy to fight to which he must succumb. It is the most encouraging development of public sentiment yet made in the progress of the war. It is an index of the breaking down of the will, the moral strength, of the people of the South, which has been effected by our grand military successes of the past six months. A war simply upon the physical resources of the South could never produce such an effect, but achievements like the fall of Atlanta, the march through Georgia, the fall of Savannah, the rout of HOOVER, the capture of Fort Fisher and the consequent closing of the port of Wilmington, together with the ominous opening of SHERMAN's new campaign, all combine to produce that mental dependency on the part of the people, the result of which is this shattering of the will, which has thus far sustained the Rebellion; and in its train we may look for the consequent dissensions, confusion and disruption. It is hardly necessary, therefore, to point to the conclusion which inevitably follows, that a continuation of the military success which has brought about the present state of affairs, must necessarily prove the most potent peace-making influence which can be brought to bear at this time. The "last ditch" idea of the Southern people was always a fallacy, as regards the chief part of the population, and could only apply to a desperate few. Like all other combatants, both ancient and modern, the Southern people, as a nation, will stop fighting when they are well whipped.

In this connection, the new campaign of General SHERMAN, now successfully inaugurated in South Carolina, assumes a vital importance. The enemy appreciates it. The reinforcement of HARDER by the South Carolina troops from LEE's army, and the appointment of LEE as general-in-chief of all the Rebel armies, have especial reference to the defeat of SHERMAN, and, unless speedily defeated, he will march through the Carolinas and into Virginia, as he marched through Georgia. And as the moral effect of the march through Georgia has been the most potent influence yet exercised to convince the enemy of his internal weakness, so a repetition of that campaign through the seaboard States would prove a still greater calamity, more especially if, in its denouement, the combined Armies of SHERMAN and GRANT should succeed in confronting LEE in Richmond.

The shedding of a drop of blood, or the prolongation of this war one hour unnecessarily, is tantamount to a crime. But if there is any virtue at all in the present unofficial peace talk, or any contingency through which anything favorable can result from it, it can be most effectually aided by the steady progress of our Armies in the field, and particularly the Army of SHERMAN. As that advances northward, the enemy in Richmond will feel his doom drawing nigh; and he has but two alternatives—either to grimly await its coming, or to rush desperately to meet it, at the risk of abandoning Richmond, and of being assailed in the rear by the watchful leader who has so long held him to bay on the James. Undoubtedly, DAVIS now wants nothing so much as a cessation of hostilities, and would sacrifice much to achieve it. We are doing what has never been done before during the war, carrying on a gigantic system of military operations throughout the winter

season; giving the enemy, as he himself declares, "no rest 'night or day.'" The opening of the spring campaign will find him comparatively exhausted in men and munitions, instead of recruited and supplied, ready for a fresh campaign, as heretofore. The approaching summer campaign, it is frankly admitted by the enemy, must witness the final culmination of the struggle, and peace through negotiation, even should present efforts be prolonged, could hardly come sooner than that; and certainly with not half the lustre that will then attend the complete triumph of our arms.

DISABLED SOLDIERS.

THE people of the United States warmly and sincerely sympathize with the sufferers who leave the Army or Navy unfitted for future military service, as well as for active or laborious employments in civil life. Yet the public cannot furnish disabled men with energy, honesty or self-respect, and will not forever help men who are unwilling to help themselves. The steady current that flows from the field of battle naturally produces an accumulation of disabled men. The numbers who thus return, to be cast upon their own resources, render it more than ever the duty of company commanders to talk plainly to their discharged men, and advise them freely on this most important subject. To all discharged, and especially to all seriously disabled, men we would say:

1st. *Preserve a soldierly bearing.* The public have no prejudice against a soldier; they have strong prejudices against a dirty loafer "who has been in the Army." The drift of public opinion in this country just now is strongly military. Employers already find that soldiers from well-disciplined regiments come back better employees than they were before they went away. Such men, they say, are more prompt, more respectful, ask fewer questions, execute orders without unnecessary comment or discussion, can stand erect without leaning against a desk or door-post; move quickly, listen attentively, dress neatly; in short, do things in a soldierly way. Men from such regiments, and particularly "good character" Regulars, have met with little difficulty in finding employment.

2d. *Select quickly some fitting employment.* Do not trust this to luck or chance. There is an immense number of men, like yourself, without an arm, without a leg, or broken in health. All cannot be messengers, or clerks, or doorkeepers, and probably you will be driven sooner or later to other occupations.

3d. *Fit yourself for such employments immediately.* There are hundreds of good clerks who have lost a right hand but who are too inert to learn to write with the left. There are thousands of bad writers who have lost a leg, yet do not take the trouble to make themselves good penmen. There are multitudes of intelligent men fitted to work at some mechanic art, yet who spare themselves the pains of learning. Do not be guilty of this folly. If necessary, go through an apprenticeship at apprentice wages before your back pay is spent.

4th. *What you have lost in body, try and make up in energy, decision, and mental vigor.* Painful as is your loss, and helpless as is your present condition, still it can be changed and almost remedied by a resolute will.

A reasonable compliance with these four rules will secure to you a livelihood, an independence, and the respect of your countrymen.

To aid our disabled soldiers in finding employment, bureaux of employment, by means of which they can be brought gratuitously in communication with employers, should be established in all the great cities. Such a bureau, indeed, has been already established in New York. It is the work of several estimable gentlemen, prominent among whom are the Executive Committee—Messrs. HOWARD POTTER, WM. E. DODGE, JR., and THEO. ROOSEVELT. The Secretary is Colonel CHARLES C. NOTT, formerly a Captain in the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, subsequently Lieutenant-Colonel of the One Hundred and Thirty-first New York, and more recently Colonel of the One Hundred and Seventy-sixth New York. The office of the Bureau is at 35 Chambers-street. Its effect cannot but be good, and its example we hope to see followed in other cities.

ANY one who was present at the first encampment of the Army of the Potomac at Cumberland Landing, on the Pamunky River, in the days of the Peninsula Campaign, will not fail to recall the magnificent scene presented by our Army, as viewed from the high ground to the east, while it lay stretched upon the broad plain running back from the river. Never before was there, and never since has there been, so favorable an opportunity for taking in at a glance the whole of that grand Army, and never a finer opportunity for viewing any Army since XERXES reviewed his host on the borders of the Hellespont. We well remember how that historical scene was called to our mind at Cumberland Landing, and how, like the Persian conqueror, we sighed to think how soon that multitude must pass away. It was fortunate that the Army of the Potomac had among its own

number an artist capable of grasping the rare picture, and a general who could appreciate the importance of preserving it. The artist was Captain JAMES HOPE, of BROOKS's Vermont brigade, whose twenty years of patient study have given him a rare skill in his profession as an artist. The general was W. F. SMITH, who, appreciating the beauty of the scene, sent at once for Captain HOPE, and requested him to set his pencil at work to preserve it. The result of Captain HOPE's labors was a picture which must become historical. It has been for some weeks on exhibition at the Derby Gallery, in New York, and none who have seen it can fail to share our surprise at the remarkable success which the artist has achieved—the more unexpected to those who were not familiar with the modest fame of Mr. HOPE. If the scene was complete, the picture is, in its way, not less so. On the hill, in the immediate foreground, is the well-remembered figure of General SMITH, who halts his horse to receive General McCLELLAN, as he rides by with his staff, among whom the Prince DE JOINVILLE, in fur cap, stands conspicuous. On the plain beneath are the white tents of the Army, its artillery, its trains, and all the paraphernalia of war. To the right is the winding Pamunky, almost hidden by the forest of masts which blend in with the foliage of the woodland that skirts the borders of the stream, and shuts in the view on all sides. In its grasp of the subject, as well as in all the essentials of artistic effect, the picture has seldom been equalled in American art, while the subject itself is one that gives it rare historical value. It should in some way be made the property of the Nation, and placed in our National Capitol.

GENERAL and Mrs. McClellan sailed for Europe on Wednesday in the steamship *China*, from New York. A large number of personal friends assembled on the wharf to bid adieu to the travellers, among them General Andrew Porter, Colonel Peterson, Colonel Lansing, Colonel Wingate, of New Jersey; Adjutant-General Downing and Captain Raymond, formerly of General McClellan's staff.

THE following is a list of officers of the Regular Army who have thus far been retired by the Board in session at Wilmington, Del., on account of disabilities caused by wounds or sickness contracted while in the line of duty:—Major D. Chase, Thirteenth U. S. Infantry; Major A. T. Lee, Second U. S. Infantry; Captain C. B. Stivers, Seventh U. S. Infantry; Captain T. T. Brandt, Eighteenth U. S. Infantry; Captain Wm. Quimby, Twelfth U. S. Infantry; Captain W. H. Walcott, Seventeenth, U. S. Infantry; Lieutenant W. O. Douglass, Fourteenth U. S. Infantry; Lieutenant Paul Quirk, Second U. S. Cavalry.

AMONGST the promotions which followed so rapidly and so justly upon the storming of Fort Fisher is that of Lieutenant-Colonel COMSTOCK, of the Engineers, senior Aide of General GRANT. He accompanied General TERRY to Cape Fear River, with the purpose of examining the fortifications from his professional point of view, as General WEITZEL had done for General BUTLER. It is one of those little circumstances interesting to paragraph, that WEITZEL and COMSTOCK were classmates at West Point. COMSTOCK, a native of Massachusetts, graduated from the Point in 1855, at the head of his class, and WEITZEL was second. Both, naturally, entered the Engineer service, and both, though young, have acquired much celebrity for professional skill.

MAJOR JOHN W. HUDSON has been promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel, Nov. 14, 1864, of the 35th Massachusetts Infantry, *vice* KING, promoted to be Colonel of the 4th Massachusetts Heavy Artillery.

In the Bureau of Military Statistics at Albany it is estimated that \$65,000,000 in local bounties was paid to volunteers in the State of New York the past year.

THE health of Major-General JOHN E. WOOL, United States Army (retired), is said to be fast failing. This veteran officer is now far advanced in years, and keeps well to his official residence in Troy, spending most of his time in retirement, in the preparation of his memoirs and other writings.

MAJOR-GENERAL J. G. BARNARD, Chief Engineer United States Army, and Major F. R. MUNTER, Aide, came passengers in the *Fulton*, and landed at Fort Monroe on the 19th inst.

WE call attention to the advertisement of the American Gold Pen Company in another column of this issue. The Company has made extensive arrangements for satisfying the demands and tastes of the public.

THE *Richmond Whig* of the 17th, speaking of the Confederate States steamers *Olustee* and *Shenandoah*, says:—In order that there should be no mistake in the matter, we wish to say that the *Olustee* and the *Shenandoah*, at present doing "the State some service" on the high seas, are regularly appointed men-of-war, fitted out and placed in commission by the Confederate Government, and with Naval officers commissioned by the President.

MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS IN CONGRESS.

BOTH Houses of Congress have united, by a unanimous vote, in the passage of a joint resolution of thanks to General Terry and Admiral Porter and their officers and men for their conduct at Fort Fisher. A similar resolution passed the House with but two dissenting voices, tendering the thanks of Congress to General Sheridan for his gallantry, military skill and brilliant series of victories in the Valley of the Shenandoah, and especially at Cedar Run, in October, which retrieved the fortunes of the day and averted a great disaster, and that the President cause to be communicated to General Sheridan a copy of the above resolution, and through him to the officers and men under his command. A joint resolution, introduced into the House by Mr. Cox, of Ohio, tendering the thanks of Congress to General Thomas and his Army, was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

In the Senate a bill was passed to amend the act defining the pay of Army officers so as to define that a brevet rank shall not entitle the holder to any increase of pay.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill, entitled an act to increase the compensation of certain officers in the field. The first section provides that the commutation price of rations to all officers below and including brevet brigadier-generals, shall be fifty cents after the first of March, instead of thirty cents, as at present; but this shall not apply to officers who are entitled to commutation for quarters or to officers of the Veteran corps. The second section relieves all officers of the Army and Navy from the payment of the income tax. The third section provides that every officer who remains in the service, except those of the Veteran Reserve corps and those on detached duty, who get commutation for quarters, shall, at the close of the war, be entitled to three months' pay on being honorably mustered out of the service. This applies to Volunteer officers only.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, as was also a bill introduced by the same Senator to amend the Enrollment act. It provides, 1st. That persons enrolled and liable to be drafted may be accepted as substitutes. 2d. That no one furnishing a Navy substitute shall be exempted unless that substitute is brought in person to the Board of Enrollment and is accepted there. 3d. That any person who knowingly brings for enlistment a convict, or insane or drunken person, or deserter, or shall defraud in the matter of bounty, shall be liable to one thousand dollars fine and two years imprisonment. 4th. That any mustering officer who shall muster such person, shall, upon conviction, be dishonorably dismissed the service. 5th. That all State or local bounties shall hereafter be paid in installments, one-third at mustering in, one-third at the middle of the term of service, and one-third at the end, unless sooner discharged honorably; if killed, the balance to be paid to the widow. 6th. That every district shall make up by additional draft or recruiting its loss from desertions and discharges on account of physical disability existing before enlistment. 7th. That all deserters shall be disfranchised forever, including all who have deserted heretofore who shall not report within sixty days.

The following was referred to the Committee on Finance:—

Resolved, That the special income tax, authorized by the joint resolution, approved July 4, 1864, now remaining unpaid by persons in receipt of salaries from the United States Government, shall be levied and collected in monthly installments of equal amount by the disbursing officers during the year 1865, the first installment thereof to be deducted from payment next following the passage of this resolution; *Provided*, That if any persons now in the employ of the Government shall resign or be discharged prior to the 1st of January, 1866, the amount of such special tax remaining unpaid at the date of such resignation or discharge shall be deducted from the final payment to be made to such persons.

The case of General PAYNE was disposed of by the adoption of the resolution calling on the Secretary of War for the publication of the report of the commission that investigated the conduct of General PAYNE at Paducah, with an amendment so as to add all papers connected with said investigation. The Secretary was also called upon to state why he had not appointed commissioners to compensate loyal owners for slaves enlisted in the military service. A communication was received from Secretary STANTON stating that the several resolutions calling for information in his possession had been banded to him on his return to the city, and that information would be sent in as speedily as possible. Also another in reply to the Senate resolution of January 5, asking information as to the number of men enlisted in the naval service of the United States that have been credited on the military quotas of the respective States. It appears, on the authority of the Provost-Marshal-General, that the number of such credits was 67,687. This includes all naval enlistments from April 17, 1861, to February 24, 1864.

The Military Committee reported back the memorial of ex-Surgeon-General HAMMOND asking for an investigation into the circumstances of his court-martial, and asked that the committee be discharged from further consideration of the subject, and it was so ordered.

A petition was received from Chaplains in the Army asking that they have the same pay as line officers of the same rank, and one from citizens of Ohio asking for an exchange of prisoners. Both were referred to the Military Committee. The subject of retaliating for the treatment of our prisoners was considered at length by the Senate, but without reaching any conclusion.

The House has occupied a large space of its time with a personal controversy growing out of an attack made on Major-General BUTLER by Mr. Brooks of New York, who assailed him with the title of "gold robber" and other equally unpalatable epithets. A letter from General BUTLER asking the authority for these statements, Mr. Brooks chose to interpret as a quasi challenge, and he sought protection accordingly behind his privileges as a representative, and laid the matter before the House, to whom General BUTLER also appealed in a letter, accompanied by documents, furnishing evidence of his innocence of the specific charge brought against him. An exciting debate grew out of the matter, in which General BUTLER was ably defended by Mr. BOWEN, of Massachusetts, and others.

The House passed the bill, as amended by the Senate,

authorizing the advance of officers of the Navy and Marine Corps for distinguished services, not exceeding thirty numbers in rank. Also a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War to state what terms and with what understanding men were accepted from Ohio and other States in 1864, and received into the Army for one hundred days, and whether there exists any reason why credits should not be given to States and districts in proportion to the time of service; and a resolution asking why commutation has not been refunded to men who were illegally drafted, and requesting the Secretary to refund the same.

A bill for the reconstruction of the Medical Department of the United States Navy, was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

THE FORTS ON CAPE FEAR RIVER.

THEIR EVACUATION AND POSSESSION.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON,
U. S. FLAGSHIP MALVERN,
OFF SMITHVILLE, N. C., January 20.

SIR:—In my last I informed you that Fort Caswell had been blown up and evacuated in consequence of the fall of Fort Fisher.

I sent Lieutenant W. B. Cushing around in the *Monticello* to the western bar to ascertain what had taken place, and to obtain aid from the officers in command of the *Nyack* and *Vicksburg*, and take advantage of the occasion.

Lieutenant Cushing did not obtain the aid he required, for what reason I have not yet learned, but with his usual energy he pushed on in his boats, and found that Fort Caswell had been blown up, Bald Head Fort destroyed, Fort Shaw also, and Fort Campbell, to the westward of Caswell, had been abandoned. All these forts mounted nine and ten-inch guns and Armstrong one hundred and fifty pounders.

Lieutenant Cushing then pushed into Smithville, after hoisting the flag of the Union over Caswell.

The next thing I saw was the flag waving over Smithville, which the rebels had left in a great hurry after they saw our boats approaching, leaving everything in the beautiful and heavy fort uninjured, and two nine-inch guns only spiked, in the fort at Deep-Water Point.

In the meantime I had succeeded in getting one gunboat, the *Tacony*, over the rip, or interior bar, and sent her up to Reeve's Point, to disable the guns at that place, about three miles above Fort Fisher, on the west side of the river.

Thus in twenty-four hours after the fall of Fort Fisher and its outworks all the formidable chain of forts in this river, at its entrance, built to keep out anything we had, have fallen into our hands. They are garrisoned for the present with sailors.

I can scarcely give a description of the works. They are certainly the most formidable and the best built earthworks I ever saw, and do credit to the engineer who planned them. One would suppose that the whole Southern Confederacy had been at work throwing up mud and sand; and General WHITING, the engineer, certainly had an abiding faith in the durability of the Confederacy, as he shows his opinion by his works, which have been four years building, and were taken in as many days.

Fort Caswell is of the same shape as it was before it fell into the Rebel hands, except that the Rebels have covered its walls with earth on the outside, and made them almost impervious to shot and shell. It is in many respects stronger than Fisher, and harder to take by assault. Still it could be taken, and the Rebels know it. Three or four gunboats inside would soon have started them out.

I have had a great deal of difficulty in getting the gunboats over the bar and the Rips, and only succeeded this morning in getting the last one through. The Rebels left plenty of good stores and provisions, and our men are now subsisting on them.

I send you a list of the forts that have fallen into our hands since Fort Fisher fell, with the number and calibre of their guns. We have found here in each fort an Armstrong gun, with the "broad arrow" on it, and the name "SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG" marked in full on the trunnions. As the British government claims the exclusive right to use these guns, it would be interesting to know how they came into forts held by the Southern Rebels. I find that immense quantities of provisions, stores and clothing have come through this port into Rebeldom. I am almost afraid to mention the amount, but it is enough to supply over sixty thousand men. It is all English, and they have received the last cargo; no more will ever come this way.

We picked up a telegram from General LEE to his subordinate here, saying that if Forts Fisher and Caswell were not held, he would have to evacuate Richmond. He says most truly, and I should not be at all surprised if he left it at any moment.

We have plenty of force to hold this place against the whole Southern Confederacy. I have two hundred and fifty guns bearing on the narrow strip of land where our troops are heavily entrenched. There are vessels in the river and outside, and we only hope they will attempt to retake it.

Ten thousand men in Fort Fisher, with the guns of the squadron, would hold this place a long time.

We find this a better place to catch blockade-runners than outside. I had the blockade-runners' lights out last night, and was obliging enough to answer their signals, whether right or wrong, we don't now. Two of them, the *Stag* and *Charlotte*, from Bermuda, loaded with arms, blankets, shoes, &c., &c., came in and quietly anchored near the *Malvern*, and were taken possession of.

The *Stag* was commanded by Richard H. Gayle, a lieutenant in the Rebel Navy, and belonging to the Rebel Government. A number more are expected, and we will, I hope, catch a portion of them. I entrusted this duty to Lieutenant Cushing, who performed it with his usual good luck and intelligence. These two are very fast vessels, and valuable prizes. They threw a portion of their papers overboard immediately on finding they were trapped.

I enclose a list of guns captured by the Navy since the surrender of Fort Fisher, and the names of the different works. This number, added to those taken around Fisher, makes one hundred and sixty-eight guns in all, most of them heavy ones, that have been taken.

I enclose a few papers that may be interesting. The *Charlotte* brings five English passengers, one of them an

English army officer. They all came over, as they expressed it, "on a lark," and were making themselves quite "jolly" in the cabin over their champagne, felicitating themselves on their safe arrival. The *Stag* received three shots in her as she ran by our blockading squadron.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

HON. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.:

List of forts taken possession of by the Navy since the fall of Fort Fisher, with their armament:

Reeve's Point—Two ten-inch guns.

Above Smithville—Two ten-inch guns.

Smithville—Four ten-inch guns.

Fort Caswell—Ten ten-inch guns, two nine-inch, one Armstrong, and four thirty-twos (rifled), two thirty-twos (smooth), three eight-inch, one Parrott (twenty pounder), three rifled field-pieces, three guns buried: Twenty-nine guns.

Forts Campbell and Shaw—Six ten-inch, six thirty-twos (smooth), one thirty-two (rifled), one eight-inch, six field-pieces, two mortars: Twenty-two guns.

Smith's Island—Three ten-inch, six thirty-twos (smooth), two thirty-twos (rifled), four field-pieces, two mortars and seventeen guns. Reported at the other end of Smith's Island, six guns.

Total captured, eighty-three guns.

PROMOTIONS IN SHERMAN'S ARMY.

MR. SECRETARY STANTON, during his recent visit to Savannah, conferred the following full and brevet promotions on officers of SHERMAN'S Army:

TO BE MAJOR-GENERALS BY BREVET.—William B. Hazen, 15th Corps; J. M. Corse, 15th Corps; Charles Woods, 15th Corps; J. M. Leggett, 17th Corps; John E. Smith, 17th Corps; Giles A. Smith, 17th Corps; A. S. Williams, 20th Corps; John W. Geary, 20th Corps; W. F. Barry, Artillery; Absalom Baird, 14th Corps; J. H. Kilpatrick, Cavalry.

TO BE BRIGADIER-GENERALS OF VOLUNTEERS.—Col. J. S. Robinson, 82d Ohio, 20th Corps; Col. Oliver, 15th Corps; Col. Mitchell, 113th Ohio, 14th Corps; Col. Potts, 32d Ohio, 17th Corps.

TO BE BRIGADIER-GENERALS BY BREVET.—Col. H. A. Barnum, 149th N. Y., 20th Corps; Col. A. Pardee, 147th N. Y., 20th Corps; Col. William Coggeswell, 2d Mass., 20th Corps; Col. Ketchum, 5th Conn., 20th Corps; Col. Buell, 58th Ind., 20th Corps; Col. A. Beckwith, Chief Commissary; William Woods, 76th Ohio, 15th Corps; Col. Fearing, 92d Ohio; Col. Parry, of Ohio.

OTHER PROMOTIONS.—Capt. J. M. Dayton, A. A. G. on Major-General Sherman's staff, Major and A. A. G.; Capt. T. J. Baylor, Ordnance Officer, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel; Capt. O. M. Poe, Chief Engineer Gen. Sherman's staff, Brevet Colonel of Engineers; Capt. J. C. Audenried and G. W. Nichols, Aides to Gen. Sherman, Brevet Majors and A. D. C.; Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, Assistant-Adjutant-General Army of the Tennessee, Brigadier-General; Captain Dunbar, Assistant Quartermaster of Kilpatrick's staff, Major and Assistant Quartermaster.

In addition to these, the following promotions in SHERMAN'S Army are reported:

Captain Finley, 74th Ohio, Major commanding; Adjutant Captain H. F. Perry, 38th Indiana, Major; Major Coates, 38th Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel; Sergeant William Shaw, 38th Indiana, Captain Co. B.; Sergeant Charles Dewees, 38th Indiana, First Lieutenant Co. C.; Lieutenant Brinkworth, 38th Indiana, Captain and Aide-de-Camp to General Corlin; Sergeant Robert Middleton, Company C, First Lieutenant.

THE work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard is sufficient to employ about 4,000 men. Five vessels are on the stocks, and the stream and wharves are always full of vessels requiring various degrees of repair, or purchased blockade-runners to be overhauled and refitted for active service. The rules lately established in regard to visitors continue rigidly in force. Two batches of Naval recruits are regularly escorted into the Yard every day to go on board the recruiting ships. A board of Naval officers has been in session to examine apprentices and minors at various trades pursued at Navy Yards, and ship-buildings. Applicants for admission are also examined, who are to serve until they are 21 years of age, when a certificate is given which entitles them to precedence in workshops at all Yards in the United States. This is a regular board and is now holding its semi-annual session. It consists of Surgeon J. M. Browne, Lieutenant-Commander Paulding, Messrs. Davidson, Dodge and Rose. A court-martial is held continuously at the marine barracks to try minor cases; president, Commodore Breese; members, Commodore Nicholson, Captain Prentiss, Lieutenants Doyle and Wescott; Mr. Hambleton, judge-advocate. The *Vanderbilt*, Captain C. W. Pickering, Brooklyn and prize steamer *Emma Henry* arrived during the week. The *Chenango* also came from New York. The *Muscoota*, which sailed a week ago, was obliged to return on account of some defects in her machinery. The departures are the *Kensington* and *Spiras*. The wooden Monitor *Miantonomah*, built at the Yard, is so far advanced that when the deck plating is laid and the turrets finished she will be ready for service.

TESTIMONIAL.

At a meeting of the Assistant Engineers of the U. S. steamer *Mount City*, held on board this 5th day of January, 1865, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously passed:

Whereas, Our worthy Chief Engineer Edward Merriman has resigned the position he has so long held and so ably filled, we feel it our duty to express in some tangible form the loss we are about to sustain.

Be it therefore resolved, That in the person of Acting Assistant Chief Engineer Edward Merriman, we have ever found a firm and steadfast supporter of the Government, and a thorough gentleman in the full acceptance of the term. In his official associations with his assistants he has had our full confidence as to his ability and efficiency; and we know he has enjoyed the confidence of Admiral Porter in a peculiar degree when the latter was commander of this squadron. We unite in expressing our regret at parting with him, wishing him as glorious a future and as well earned, as he has earned the respect and confidence he has enjoyed from the large circle of friends he has made while an officer in the United States Navy.

ALEXANDER MAGUIRE,
JOHN M. HARTWELL,
J. B. ATWOOD,
GEORGE N. HENSEL,
JAMES VARRANT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

RANK OF WARRANT OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—I see in your paper of the 21st inst. an article headed "Rank of Warrant officers," signed "U. S. N." Your correspondent, without any just cause, makes some sweeping remarks relative to this class of Navy officers. In the first place, he appears to be very much grieved that the warrant officers have obtained a uniform and assimilated rank with ensigns and masters. In consequence of this, he thinks that upon certain occasions they will take precedence on the quarter-deck and in the ward-room. I will state to "U. S. N." (if he does not know it) that when the warrant officers petitioned for a uniform and rank, to know exactly where they did belong, or whether they were officers in the Navy or not, it was particularly understood there should be no change in their quarters or in their duties, and that they should take no precedence over ward-room officers. "U. S. N." appears to be a little alarmed lest some warrant officer should get in the ward-room mess, which, no doubt, he thinks would be a lasting disgrace on his grade. Yet the ward-room officers during this war do not hesitate to sit down at table with acting masters made from gangs of laborers from Navy yards, from city railroad cars, from deck hands on ferry boats, and from almost any other business where they had influence enough to get an appointment.

The next thing which seems to trouble "U. S. N." is, that a boatswain will have to be presented at balls, dinners, processions, &c., on account of his ranking with a master; and that, inasmuch as his educational attainments and social intercourse do not qualify him for such occasions, the country will be disgraced. A boatswain who, as "U. S. N." says, has served an apprenticeship in the fore-castle, is not supposed to be the Nation's representative at balls, dinners, &c.; but, notwithstanding, I think there are many warrant officers in the Navy whose qualifications for social intercourse will compare favorably with any other grade in the service. "U. S. N." then says he has seen men messing on the berth-deck whose educational attainments would shame any warrant officer on the list. All of which may be very true. I will also state, for "U. S. N.'s" information (if he is not aware of it), that there can always be found men messing on the berth-deck (particularly of large vessels) whose scholastic acquirements would put to shame many of the ward-room officers who have been educated at the Nation's expense.

"U. S. N." next proposes to substitute in the place of warrant officers their mates, or those "somebodies" who have done the duties on smaller vessels during the war. If "U. S. N." would give his name, we might find a substitute for him from among the subordinates of his own grade, who would be his equal in efficiency. He next proposes to abolish the grades of boatswains, carpenters and sailmakers, because these "somebodies" are now doing the duty on many of the smaller vessels of the Navy; and he also knows of instances "where the deficiencies of the warrant officers were supplied by the superior knowledge and ability of their mates." If "U. S. N." has known instances of this kind, he must also know instances where the executive officer has had superior knowledge and abilities to his command, and also where the junior lieutenants have been far superior in knowledge to the executive. Such things happen on almost every vessel. If it is indispensable necessary to dismiss from the service the boatswains, carpenters and sailmakers, because there are instances of an inferior having more knowledge and ability than his superior, why not dismiss those officers of a higher grade; for there are many officers of lower rank much their superiors in ability, and more efficient in every way?

"U. S. N." says also that the days of those old warrant officers have passed away, like hemp cables and bentick shrouds. If "U. S. N." ever knew the use of bentick shrouds, I can inform him it was through the suggestions of our oldest boatswains that they were dispensed with; and, moreover, those old boatswains of the Navy are men who have kept pace with the times, and some of the neatest rigged vessels that ever left a port have been our first-class gunboats, rigged by those same old boatswains that "U. S. N." says are now out of date.

VETERAN WARRANT OFFICER.

[We select the above letter from among several communications which have been received from warrant officers in reply to the letter of "U. S. N." The authors of the letters not published will find their ideas well expressed in the one we have chosen. Both sides having now been heard, the controversy may as well close.—EDITOR.]

SURGEONS IN THE NAVY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—The recent report of the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery contained a recommendation, endorsed by the Secretary of the Navy, that the pay and commission of the surgical corps of the Navy should be made more desirable than at present, it being almost impossible to procure the requisite number of medical officers for the service. The present session of Congress is now near its close, and nothing has been done in the matter, nor has any disposition to act been manifested.

The pay department of the Navy has, however, been more fortunate. A bill has passed one House, almost without opposition, reorganizing their corps, providing for the grade of passed assistant paymaster, and the immediate promotion of one hundred acting assistant paymasters to the new grade. While this is about becoming a law, and these officers in all probability are soon to be promoted, there are at least sixty regular assistant surgeons entitled to examination for promotion, and so entitled for periods varying from six to eight months, and who, if not speedily submitted to the

ordeals, will take rank below this newly-created band of one hundred passed assistant paymasters.

Members of the paymaster's and surgeon's corps are the only staff officers often contrasted in the Navy—as engineers are not entitled to the ward-room below the grade of chief engineer—and assistant surgeons have most keenly felt the disproportionate promotion in the two ranks, arising from the fact of one so largely outnumbering the other. This is exemplified in the last Naval Register, where it will be seen that the original entry into the service of the last twenty five paymasters ranking with lieutenant-commander was later, in every case, than that of twenty-six assistant surgeons of the first class of 1861, and later than the entrance of several members of the second class of the same year. The members of the former class have been promoted to the rank of passed assistant within the last year, but will not probably become full surgeons for a number of years to come. The last class is still unpromoted, as before stated.

I speak for my corps when I earnestly call the attention of the Naval Committee and Congress to the recommendations of the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

ASSISTANT SURGEON.

NORFOLK, Va., January 24th, 1865.

THOUGHTS ON THE SPRING CAMPAIGN.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—I send you herewith some simple thoughts for the consideration of your readers, in relation to the coming spring campaign. It may serve to develop one less eccentric and more practicable. As "Paris is France," so is Richmond, at present, the Southern Confederacy. Now, Richmond, as a city, is not of much importance to either side, but as the point of concentration of the great railroads of the South it possesses such a value to the Rebels, that they keep one hundred thousand men, comparatively inactive, holding it, whilst our columns a penetrating unopposed through the most fertile and populous of the Southern States, and while disaster after disaster is scattering their armies in all directions.

It is apparent then, that, Richmond or rather the army which holds it, must be disposed of. It is the grand objective point against which all our combinations must be directed in the campaign that will open at the commencement of spring. Experience has demonstrated that with equal numbers that army, whether Federal or Rebel, that operates offensively, against the other on the defensive, invariably gets the worst of the bargain. Such at least has been the experience of the Army of the Potomac. To obviate this difficulty it is apparent that we must combine our forces to give an overwhelming superiority at the decisive point. The wonderful march of SHERMAN, the brilliant success of General THOMAS, and the telling blows inflicted by SHERIDAN, have happily placed our Government in a position to make such a disposition of its Armies.

SHERMAN demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt the exhaustion of the Confederacy. He has no enemy in his front, flank, or rear that causes him the slightest uneasiness. THOMAS sprang upon the disoriented, undisciplined army of HOOD, with its rash, impracticable commander, and hustled both out of Tennessee with the loss of many pieces of artillery and prisoners, and threw it off its line of operation completely. Whether that army will ever again appear in the arena as a formidable power is a question which the future must decide.

SHERIDAN, in two decisive pitched battles, inflicted a punishment on the Army of the Shenandoah (EARLY'S), from which it has not yet recuperated, probably never will. That army is also ruled out, as an army, in the approaching struggle; and this brings us to the Army of Northern Virginia (LEE'S), which is really a fine army, and the only one on which the Confederacy can rely to make head against the vast force which General GRANT intends to mass against it.

Our Armies are hundreds of miles apart, but not so far that they are not available against the central enemy. How are they to be brought together in one gigantic effort, is the question. Now, it appears to me absurd to ask SHERMAN to operate against Charleston and Wilmington, cities which have no strategic importance, or to exhaust his men by raids into the interior of Georgia or the Carolinas. It is equally ridiculous to send THOMAS into the miasmatic and depopulated swamps of Alabama. So it is contrary to all good policy and military common-sense to leave SHERIDAN with his immense force guarding the desert which he has made of the Shenandoah Valley.

General SHERMAN should leave six thousand men in Savannah, and embark the remainder of his Army, bringing it to Virginia and landing on the north bank of the James. THOMAS should be directed to establish a secondary base at Knoxville and march on Lynchburgh. SHERIDAN ought to reconstruct the Orange and Alexandria Railroads to Gordonsville, capture the latter place, and when these dispositions are completed, establish a secondary base at that point. SHERMAN, directing the movements of the Army of the James combined with his own troops (this combination giving him an equal force or a superiority, in point of numbers, to the army that LEE would have available to act on the offensive), should push out nearly, or quite, to Hanover Junction, crossing the Chickahominy at a convenient point and establish his connection with SHERIDAN advancing from Gordonsville. THOMAS moving forward on Richmond, either taking or masking Lynchburgh, under the protection of the vast armies of SHERMAN and SHERIDAN; whilst the Army of the Potomac should demonstrate strongly against the Danville Road, and even advance quite to it. Our combined cavalry (constituting a force far outnumbering anything the Rebels could bring in the way of mounted men) should be ordered to break down bridges, destroy railroads, &c., and execute generally the duty assigned to that arm of the service, and the problem is solved. For, with all the communications destroyed, Richmond must fall. THOMAS, SHERIDAN and SHERMAN, with his two Armies, would make a force far beyond the power of LEE to attack. The Army of the Potomac, fortified near Burkville Junction, with ten days' rations, could not be operated against with any hope of success. The instant General LEE abandoned his defensive position at Richmond, the alternative to an

unconditional surrender, he would be lost. In the open field, with the vast armies against him, with our large cavalry commands harassing him in all directions, his army would disappear from the face of the earth. The rebellion would be crushed at a blow, peace would follow as "day the night," and prosperity would dawn once again on our country.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, January 14, 1865.

PETITION FOR INCREASE OF PAY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—I transmit you herewith a copy of a petition of the Assistant and Acting-Assistant Paymasters of the South-Atlantic Squadron, to Congress, soliciting increase of rank and pay. It is signed by forty-six pay officers of those grades. Will you have the goodness to give it place in your columns?

The document, with its signatures, was brought north by myself this trip, and is forwarded to Hon. A. H. RICE, Chairman Naval Committee, House of Representatives, Washington.

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS,
PHILADELPHIA, January 3, 1865.

SOUTH ATLANTIC BLOCKADING SQUADRON,
December 16, 1864.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

GENTLEMEN:—We, the undersigned, Assistant and Acting Assistant Paymasters attached to the squadron, earnestly call your attention to the following facts:—

We perform the duties of Paymaster, Quartermaster and Commissary for the vessels to which we belong, receive a salary of from \$800 to \$1,400 (ration included); per annum, rank with Masters which assimilates with First Lieutenants in the Army, and give two securities of \$10,000.

Assistant Quartermasters and Commissaries in the Army receive a salary of \$1,032 per annum, rank with Captain (which is equivalent to Lieutenant in the Navy), and give security respectively of \$10,000 and \$6,000; and regimental Quartermasters and Commissaries receive a salary of \$1,542 per annum, rank with First Lieutenants, and give no security whatever.

Nor is our pay sufficient as compared with that of other officers of the Navy. Though we rank with Masters, our annual sea pay is \$200 less than theirs, and nearly \$300 less than that of Lieutenants. Our responsibilities, being immediate, pressing and pecuniary, much exceed in weight and importance their general and indefinite ones; and our pay, such as it is, is more or less precarious and nominal, exposed as we are to so many risks of loss. The lowest class of clerks of any bureau in any department at Washington receive more than we do, taking our share or "other duty" pay of \$1,000 per annum as a standard.

Furthermore, such of us as are in the Volunteer service have no chance of promotion whatever, while all other officers in said service, with the exception of Acting Assistant Surgeons, have such opportunity.

Under all these circumstances we think that the rank and pay of Lieutenants in the Navy is not immoderate compensation for us; and this we therefore most respectfully and urgently solicit.

RETALIATION.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—I would like to submit to public consideration, through your columns, a few short considerations and suggestions on the subject of retaliation upon the prisoners of war now in our hands, as a means of protection from inhuman treatment of our prisoners in the hands of the enemy. The conclusions to which I shall arrive are the results of much reflection during a long tour of duty, as an officer at one of our principal depots of prisoners; and while I can vouch for the good treatment our own captives receive, I have also some knowledge of the brutal treatment received by our captive soldiers at the hands of the enemy. An easy recurrence to first principles will, in this matter, materially aid in an arrival at correct conclusions. Those principles, as affecting the question now before the Government, are two in number, and they are apparently in conflict.

1. All parties in warfare, and especially all parties in civil warfare, are bound by every consideration, both of interest and humanity, to extend all reasonable good treatment to prisoners of war in their hands.

2. Every government, in carrying on warfare, is absolutely bound to protect, by all means in its power, its own soldiers and citizens from the violation by the enemy of the recognized rules of civilized warfare.

A double duty has, then, now devolved upon our Government, and it is morally bound, while exercising humanity towards its own prisoners, yet by all means in its power to exact the same treatment from the enemy towards our prisoners in their hands. To accomplish this, retaliation is the readiest, most effective and most universally recognized means. Retaliation, however, is of two kinds—universal and specific. If one party to warfare inflicts improper usage on certain prisoners in their hands, the other party is justified only in retaliation upon equal or specifically greater numbers in their hands, but not upon a number greater than the least which will effect the end desired. The correct principle of retaliation would seem to be: the effectual prevention of harsh treatment upon certain beings out of our power by the infliction of the least possible degree of harsh treatment upon certain other beings within our power.

Let these principles be applied in the present case. It is conceded that retaliation is the usual and most effective means in our hands to remedy the ill treatment of our prisoners in the hands of the enemy. It is, therefore, to be made use of. The only question then remaining is, What is the least possible degree of harsh usage towards the prisoners in our hands which will insure good treatment towards the prisoners in the hands of the enemy?

It has been stated in debate in Congress that we held double the amount of prisoners in our hands that the enemy hold in theirs. In this case, retaliation upon equal numbers would almost certainly accomplish the end desired. A greater degree of retaliation, if that is the case, cannot be justified. The correct course, therefore, and that most in accordance with the usages of civilized warfare, would seem to be the organization by our Government of a new prisoners' depot—a depot which might well be known as "Camp Retaliation." Into that camp a number of the prisoners in our hands should be drafted, equal, as near as can be ascertained, to the number of our prisoners in the hands of the enemy. These unfortunates should then receive precisely the same treatment which may hereafter, as nearly as can be ascertained, be extended to our prisoners

ers by the Confederates, and their fate be upon the heads of the Confederate leaders.

This degree of retaliation on our part, as the least infliction of cruelty for the necessary accomplishment of a solemn obligation we are under, would be strictly in accordance with the usages of civilized warfare. Humanity would be satisfied by the continued good treatment of one half of the prisoners in our hands, and justice would not cry out against us for our failure to extend to our own soldiers the protection we had promised them.

The course proposed would also enable us to discriminate among the prisoners in our own hands. Any one who knows anything of those prisoners, knows that among them are to be found all shades and descriptions of men. Many thousands of them are eager to take, and would faithfully keep, the oath of allegiance; others are poor invalids, or mere boys, or aged men—on all such no human being could bear to inflict the horrors of retaliation. In the future, as in the past, let such be tenderly cared for. Beside these, and constituting more than half the prisoners in our hands, we have the robust, bitter, vindictive soldier of the Confederacy—the men who declare that they "will rot before they will take the oath." Such should be the first inmates of "Camp Retaliation," and such should become a buckler and a shield to our soldiers in the prison pens of the South. Boston, January 24, 1865. C. F. A., Jr.

REAR-ADMIRAL PORTER ON THE CONDUCT OF THE MONITORS.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON,
FLAGSHIP MALVERN,

OFF FORT FISHER, N. C., January 15, 1865.

SIR:—My late experience with the Monitor class of vessels under fire at sea and in riding out heavy gales, justifies me in making a special report in the matter. I feel the importance of the Government's receiving accurate information in relation to a class of vessels about which there has been a difference of opinion, and of which we are building quite a number.

My experience has been with the *Monadnock*, *Saugus*, *Mahopac* and *Canonicus*, all vessels of some difference of construction, and built, I believe, by different contractors.

Before leaving Hampton Roads, and while waiting for the Army to provide troops for the land part of this expedition, I sent the Monitors *Canonicus*, *Mahopac* and *Saugus* up the James River, to try what they could do with the Rebel batteries at Howlett's, and above that point. At Howlett's the enemy had a heavy gun mounted (a two hundred-pounder Brooke's rifle), which was frequently fired at the Monitors, but seldom hitting them. One of their shells or shot, however, struck the *Saugus* fair on the turret, and knocked out and loosened forty of the bolts.

This was owing to the bolts being driven from inside to out, instead of from outside to in. The turret was not materially injured, and was repaired again in about two (2) weeks, and I have been using the *Saugus* here against these works, where she has done effective service.

The *Canonicus*, *Mahopac* and *Monadnock* left Hampton Roads on the 18th ult., the former two in tow of steamers—the *Monadnock* going under steam with a steamer in company. The weather was quite rough, and at times the sea would go over the turrets and down the funnels; but I passed them while at sea, and they were making excellent weather of it. On asking their commander, afterward, how they got along, the answer was: "Oh, quite well, Sir; only a little damp."

On arriving at Beaufort, N. C., I filled them up with coal and ammunition. I found a defect in a pump on board the *Canonicus* (a "centrifugal pump" they called it), which did not fetch the water until there was a foot or more in the vessel. This was a serious defect, and one for which the constructors were very culpable. The *Mahopac*'s decks leaked considerably, and made the officers and crew very uncomfortable.

The Monitors started from Beaufort on the 18th ultimo, the *Canonicus* and *Mahopac* being towed, the *Monadnock* declining such assistance. Indeed, she did not require it, outrunning the largest vessels easily, and keeping ahead of all except the very fastest.

On the 21st ultimo, it came on to blow hard from the southwest, and a very heavy sea commenced rolling in. The vessels were all anchored in thirteen (13) fathoms of water, with a long scope of chain out. Most of the large vessels dragged during the gale. The *Tuscarora* and *Jonestown* put to sea (I think unnecessarily), while the Monitors rode out beautifully. I was anchored quite near them, and witnessed their performance. At first thought I had been imprudent and had unnecessarily risked the lives of officers and men, but I went to sleep the first night of the gale quite easy in my mind in regard to the Monitors.

I saw that they were making the best weather, and riding easier than any of the other vessels in the fleet. All the transports cut and ran, though I think that was quite unnecessary. After the gale I inquired of the commanders of the monitors, how they passed through the ordeal, and they seemed to think they got along very well. The smaller Monitors, *Mahopac* and *Canonicus*, at times almost disappeared from view, and the commander of the former vessel complained of discomfort, owing to the decks leaking, but the vessels were in no danger at the time. As to the *Monadnock*, she could ride out a gale at anchor in the Atlantic Ocean. She is certainly a perfect success so far as the hull and machinery are concerned, and is only defective in some minor details, which in the building of these vessels require the superintendence of a thorough seaman and practical and ingenious man.

The *Monadnock* is capable of crossing the ocean alone, when her compasses are once adjusted properly, and could destroy any vessel in the French and British Navy, lay her towns under contribution, and return again (provided she could pick up coal) without fear of being followed. She could certainly clear any harbor on our coast of blockaders, in case we were at war with a foreign power. As strong and thick as the sides of this vessel are, one heavy shot from Fort Fisher indented the iron on her side armor, without, however, doing any material damage. These vessels have laid fire (5) days under a fire from Fort Fisher, anchored less than eight hundred (800) yards off, and though fired at a great deal, they were seldom hit, and re-

ceived no injury, except to boats and light matter about the decks, which were pretty well cut to pieces. Compared with the *Ironclads*, their fire is very slow and not at all calculated to silence heavy batteries, which requires a rapid and continuous fire to drive men from the guns, but they are famous coadjutors in a fight, and put in the heavy blows which fell on casements and bomb-proofs.

The smaller class of Monitors, as at present constructed, will always require the aid of a steamer to tow them and take care of them. In smooth weather they ought to go along by themselves, and when towed the tow-ropes should never be less than two hundred (200) fathoms in length. It strains them very much to have a short tow-line.

I do not know yet what their real durability is or would be in a continuous fire against their turrets. Solid 11-inch or 200-pounder rifles are apt to break something when they strike, and I should be much better satisfied myself behind wooden bulwarks, and take what comes, than to be shut up in an iron turret, not knowing whether it is properly constructed. This, though, is the prejudice of a sailor, and should have no weight whatever.

The commanders of the Monitors seem to feel quite at home and safe in them, and apprehend no more danger at sea than in any other kind of vessel. Commander PARROT, of the *Monadnock*, remarked he did not see any difference between her and anything else. The *Saugus* joined me after the first day's fight, off Fort Fisher, and was towed round from Norfolk by the *Nereus*, in very rough weather. The vessel leaked a good deal through her bows, and some uneasiness was felt for her on that account; but her sea-going qualities were spoken of as good. The difficulty was a mechanical one, and in no way detracts from the qualities of the vessel. There is no great amount of comfort on board these vessels at sea; that is conceded on all sides, but they are seldom at sea, and only exposed when making a voyage. This is the first time, I believe, that the Monitors have ridden out heavy gales, in an open sea at anchor, though they have ridden out gales in Charleston Roads.

I have only to remark that the principle is a good one, if the vessels are all built like the *Monadnock*. The fire of these vessels combined with the fire of such vessels as the *New Ironsides* and heavy frigates, is very effective, particularly against heavy-plated vessels, bomb-proofs, and stone or brick walls. I have never yet seen a vessel that came up to my ideas of what is required for offensive operations so much as the *Ironclads*. She combines very many good qualities. The most important is the comfort with which the people on board of her live, though she would be no match for the *Monadnock* in a fight, the latter having more speed.

The accuracy of fire is, I think, in favor of the *Ironclads*, judging from what I have seen. The turrets get filled with smoke, and do not clear as quick as the *Ironclads*, though that defect could be avoided by not firing both guns so near together. These impressions of mine are formed from a short experience with Monitors, but I think they will be found correct, provided the Monitors are properly built.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.
Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

A TESTIMONIAL TO GENERAL GRANT.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2, 1865.

Lieutenant-General U. S. GRANT, commanding United States Army:

DEAR GENERAL:—Having learned that Mrs. GRANT was looking for and unable to obtain a house in this city, which you have concluded to make your place of residence, it affords us great pleasure to present to yourself and family a house furnished and ready in our City of Homes.

As citizens of the United States, we beg your acceptance of this slight testimonial of the gratitude we feel, in common with all loyal citizens, for the eminent services you have rendered to the nation during its present struggle for the suppression of the Rebellion, and of our appreciation of your distinguished military ability and patriotism and moral worth.

As citizens of Philadelphia, feeling that it would be a high honor to have you a fellow townsman, we present it as a token of the welcome which our entire city extends to your family, while you are still fighting the battles of the nation, and which we will most heartily extend to yourself when the war shall be over. In requesting your acceptance of the title deed, let us express the hope that, through the instrumentality of yourself and other tried and trusted heroes, the time may soon come when the blessings of Union and peace, founded on the principles of justice and freedom, shall crown the efforts now so nobly made.

That our country may come forth from the terrible ordeal stronger, better, purer and freer, is our earnest wish, and to this we pray that God may long spare your valuable life, and continue your invaluable services for our national prosperity and peace.

On behalf of the subscribers, very truly yours,
GEO. H. STUART, E. C. KNIGHT,
A. C. BORIE, DAVIS PEARSON,
WM. C. KENT, GEO. WHITNEY,
JAMES GRAHAM, Committee.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, Va., Jan. 4, 1865.

MEMOR. GEORGE H. STUART, A. C. BORIE, W. C. KENT, E. C. KNIGHT, DAVIS PEARSON, GEORGE WHITNEY and JAMES GRAHAM, Committee:—

GENTLEMEN:—Through you the loyal citizens of Philadelphia have seen fit to present me with a house, lot and furniture in your beautiful city. The letter notifying me of this is just received.

It is with feelings of gratitude and pride that I accept this substantial testimonial of the esteem of your loyal citizens—gratitude, because it is evidence of a deep-set determination on the part of a large number of citizens that this war shall go on until the Union is restored—pride, that my humble efforts in so great a cause should attract such a token from a city of strangers to me.

I will not predict a day when we will have peace again, with a Union restored. But that that day will come, is as sure as the rising of to-morrow's sun. I have never doubt-

ed this in the darkest days of this dark and terrible Rebellion.

Until this happy day of peace does come, my family will occupy and enjoy your magnificent present. But until then I do not expect nor desire to see much of the enjoyments of a home fireside.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General, United States Army.

The house selected is the new one, No. 2,009 Chestnut street, which is now being furnished.

ARMY AND NAVY PERSONAL.

LIEUTENANT-Colonel Caughlin has been appointed Provost-Marshal-General of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina.

CAPTAIN N. D. Badger, Assistant-Inspector-General of Cavalry in Sheridan's Army, has been promoted to a majority in the Eighth Ohio cavalry.

BRIGADIER-General J. H. Fessenden has succeeded Colonel Edwards, of the Thirty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, as commander of the post of Winchester, Va.

THE vacant brigadier-generalship, made by the death of Charles Russell Lowell, has been filled by the appointment thereto of Colonel Forsythe, of Major-General Sheridan's staff, formerly of the 8th Illinois cavalry.

BRIGADIER-General Carroll, who has been laid up for some time by wounds, has arrived in Washington and been assigned to the command of Camp Stoneman, the rendezvous of recruits for Major-General Hancock's veteran corps.

CAPTAIN J. F. Fritte, Commissary of Musters of the First division, Nineteenth corps, has been appointed to succeed Captain Yorke, as Corps Commissary of Musters. Captain Yorke has recently received his commission as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Seventy-fifth New York Volunteers.

CAPTAIN Eugene McGrath, of the Fifth New York heavy artillery, has been promoted to a majority in his regiment for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Opequan, Sept. 19, 1864, in which he was severely wounded in the hand and suffered the amputation of two of his fingers.

By direction of the War Department, officers of the Quartermaster's Department on duty at or in the vicinity of Military Hospitals will, upon the requisition of the medical officer in charge, furnish coffins and other proper facilities for the interment of officers who die in hospitals.

BREVET Brigadier-General H. L. Abbot, commanding a brigade in Terry's First division of the 24th corps, was on the point of coming North on a short leave of absence when he was recalled by a telegram from General Grant, ordering him to take part in the Fort Fisher Expedition, where he won his brevet.

A BOARD, to consist of the following officers: Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Whitman, Thirtieth New York Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel M. T. Holbrook, One Hundred and Seventy-third New York Volunteers; Major George Washburn, One Hundred and Thirty-third New York Volunteers, has been ordered to determine and establish a price for each article sold in the town of Winchester, Va., by sutlers and storekeepers.

THE names of the division and brigade commanders promoted for Fort Fisher are: Brevet Major-General Alfred H. Terry, to be major-general; Brigadier-General Adalbert Ames, to be brevet major-general; Brevet Brigadier-General Curtis, to be brigadier-general; Colonel Louis Bell (dead), to be brevet brigadier-general; Colonel Pennypacker, to be brevet brigadier-general; Colonel H. L. Abbot, to be brevet brigadier-general.

THE following officers in Sheridan's Army have been recommended for brevet promotions: Major Thomas Gibson, Fourteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, to be lieutenant-colonel, by brevet, to rank from August 7, 1864, for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Moorfield, Va.; Captain Joseph Ankrom, Second West Virginia cavalry, to be major, by brevet, to rank from July 24, 1864, for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Winchester, and for faithful discharge of duty during the campaign; First Lieutenant Samuel Grim, First West Virginia Veteran cavalry, to be captain, by brevet, to rank from June 14, 1864, for gallant and meritorious conduct in leading two hundred men from Lexington, Va., to Concord Station, on the Southside Railroad, and bringing back his command safely, passing through the midst of General Imboden's camp; First Lieutenant John J. McDonald, First Virginia Veteran cavalry, to be captain, by brevet, to rank from September 6, 1864, for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Winchester, July 24, and Bunker Hill, September 6, 1864; First Lieutenant W. W. Murphy, Fourteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, to be captain, by brevet, to rank from June 5, 1864, for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Piedmont, Va.; Second Lieutenant Charles A. Benjamin, Twenty-first New York cavalry, to be first lieutenant, by brevet, to rank from July 24, 1864, for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Winchester, and throughout the entire campaign.

BRIGADIER-General WM. H. POWELL, commanding the Second Cavalry Division of Sheridan's Army, has tendered his resignation, and it has been very reluctantly accepted. In his farewell order to his division General POWELL says: "To the Second brigade of the division, 'now commanded by Colonel H. CAPEHART, formerly 'commanded by me from the 10th day of June, 1864, to 'the 24th of September, 1864 (at which time I assumed 'command of the division), I owe much of my success as 'an officer, and for which it has my thanks. To the 'vision, as a whole, I can say, with great pleasure, that 'through the unparalleled, active and successful campaign 'in the Shenandoah Valley, success has crowned all our 'efforts.'"

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor of this JOURNAL will always be glad to receive from officers in the two services, correspondence and general communications of a character suited to its columns. It is necessary that the name of the writer should, in all cases, accompany his communications, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Officers are especially requested to give us early notification of all personal matters of general interest; of the movements of vessels of casualties among officers; and military and naval events.

The Editor will, at all times, be pleased to respond, in these columns, to enquiries in regard to tactical and other matters.

The subscription price of THE ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL is SIX DOLLARS a year, or THREE DOLLARS for six months, invariably in advance. Remittances may be made in United States funds, or Quartermaster's, Paymaster's or other drafts, which should be made payable to the order of the Proprietor, W. O. Church.

Subscribers who fail to receive their paper promptly, will please give immediate notice of the fact.

Subscribers ordering the address of their paper to be changed, should be careful to give their previous address.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

The postage on the JOURNAL is twenty-five cents a year, payable quarterly in advance, at the office where received.

All communications should be addressed to the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, New York.

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE JOURNAL.

THE Publisher of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL has hitherto been unable to meet the large and unexpected demand for the first bound volume of the paper. To supply this demand it became necessary to stereotype the greater part of the numbers for 1863 and '64. This caused much vexatious delay in responding to orders for the bound volumes. Now, however, the work of stereotyping has been completed and a full supply of the first volume, handsomely bound in cloth, has been obtained. The price of this volume bound in cloth is \$7 50; in half morocco \$10. Gentlemen in the Army, who wish the volume sent to them by express, should enclose the amount of the express charges, which average about \$1 60, as these are required by the companies to be paid in advance.

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1865.

THE FINAL PROBLEMS OF THE WAR.

WHAT progress has been made in subduing the Southern Rebellion? That is the great and pertinent inquiry after each elaborate movement in the war has been consummated. A retrospective glance at this moment over its course will show that the Nation has reached another great landmark in its appointed track. Its first great aim was to gather from city and hamlet its patriotic millions, to train them into soldiers, and to teach them the art of waging grand war. After much time spent and resources wasted, the second great crisis burst upon us, in repelling the dangerous aggressive rush of the insurgents, who already armed and equipped with a speed surpassing our Northern sluggish deliberation, threatened to overwhelm everything in a mighty surge. The danger lurked in their chances of obtaining, by a temporary prostration of our Armies, the sympathetic recognition and aid of European Powers. That peril safely passed, our third grand point was still distant—to achieve a palpable military superiority over the Rebellion, so that it might be clear to all eyes that we had mastered the approaches, had snatched the key to the innermost recess of the Rebellion. That is now done: on this third table-land we stand. It is true that we have often before boasted of our mastery over the Rebellion. It is related, whether veraciously or not, of General HOOKER, that he at one time supposed himself to have "the key of Richmond in his 'breeches' pocket." And the same anecdote is told of General BUTLER. But we believe that with all that remains to be accomplished, that famous phrase which got worn out by premature circulation, can at least claim to be freshened and accepted as the pithiest description of our national affairs—"the crushing of 'the Rebellion is only a question of time.'" Let Charleston fall, and we have got the Southern Confederacy under a glass case, which the world may look at, but from which henceforth, they must keep "hands off."

Whoever desires to know what real progress is making in the war, should inquire what the most prudent of our people are everywhere discussing. Involuntarily they glance at the final problems of the Rebellion; and, not only involuntarily, but wisely. As for those disloyal souls who, in its dubious hours, committed the inexplicable crime of despairing of the Republic, their opinions of its present prospects, whether favorable or adverse, are of little importance. But it is true that even the deliberate and reflective of our people feel that we have come at last to where

the threads of political and military questions intertwine, and must be disentangled together. How shall we secure its object and its true fruits from this long struggle, with its rivers of blood and shipwreck of a nation's treasures, and how end it thoroughly and well? That will soon be the question of the hour: the question of pursuit after victory, of gathering the advantage of triumph, after triumph is won. There is now a pleasurable excitement in the intellectual friction of the country on these topics, in the novel, extravagant, or sensible ideas, and the new theories and strange proposals for national adjustment each day brings forth.

Perhaps it is a little premature to consider these complicated questions of reconstruction. For time, that wonderful element in human fortunes, was wont to cut Gordian knots, before ALEXANDER was cradled. And time and events will save the country the labor of solving many vexatious problems. But, very soon, the question of rehabilitating the Nation will be upon us. In considering this, it must never be forgotten that the Southern idea—or, at least, the Southern idea as developed during the last five years—is, in those points which distinguish it from the Northern idea, now adopted as the National idea, repugnant to our Government and our institutions. The aristocratic sentiment, long sleeping without material progress, sprouted suddenly to fruition in the Rebellion. Visionary schemers joyfully discovered that their Utopia was at hand—a government founded on the corner-stone of Slavery. Slavery now is buried in a grave as deep as the grave of JOHN BROWN, whom, with short-sighted frenzy, it was foolish enough to hang under State laws against inciting insurrection, instead of under the greater laws of the Union which he had equally violated. With the appointment of General LEE as commander of all the Confederate Armies, and the implied sanction therein of the Richmond Congress to the emancipation of conscripted negroes, Slavery is dead, South as well as North. Peace to its ashes. If Mr. STEPHENS did not err four years since in speaking of its position in his new experiment in state-craft, all the cement of the Confederate arch has now dropped out.

But, so far as our national integrity was concerned, and aside from speculations of humanity, it was the impulse to desert the Union through annoyance at its sway, in search of independence, that provoked the war. That insubordinate spirit is fatal to us now, and ever will be. We can subjugate territory, but we cannot subjugate ideas. This terrible intestine war will surely end in breaking the armed force of the Rebellion. It will disperse troops, re-possess forts, level magazines and arsenals, wrest away the arms seized for unlawful purposes. It will have crushed into the soil a hundred thousand men who lifted up their hands against the Republic. And after all the insubordinate idea might remain.

It is certain, however, that, with the fall of Slavery, one great source of dissatisfaction with the General Government will be removed; and, should another rebellion be incited, it will have to go to another quarry than its predecessor, for its corner-stone. All that jealousy, and the suspicion with which the South was wont to watch encroachments on its domestic institutions will be gone, and so will all the accompanying greed, which impelled the owners of slaves to hate the North. It is certain, too, that the tremendous slaughter of the present war has laid at rest for ever many a turbulent spirit, many a factious demagogue and fire-eater. And, finally, it is more than probable that, with a constant life of toil, excitement, and hardship, of flame and carnage, the great majority of the Southern people will quietly return their allegiance to the old Government, which sad experience will have taught to be less odious than the new. There will still be a residue of relentless enemies of the Union. For these nothing remains but extirpation. But this will be accomplished doubtless by a voluntary, rather than a forced expatriation of the leaders. We shall wish Europe, Canada, Cuba, and Mexico joy of their acquisitions in citizens.

But upon this very threshold of the subject, we pause; our only object being to indicate to what point the national thought must soon tend. It would have been an inestimable blessing, if this war had brought out for the councils of State men as great as military exigencies produced for the field. A GRANT and a SHERMAN in the mazes of diplomacy is precisely our country's need.

EARTHWORKS.

THE Crimean War inaugurated a new era in the history of defence. The gallant defence of Silistria and the little redoubt of the Arab Tabia, for months, by the Turks against the Russians, the formidable works thrown up by TODLEBEN in the very face of his enemies, the assaults they sustained, and their final surrender only when all the material resources of France and England had been brought to bear against them, and their works had been subjected to a *feu d'enfer* until that time without a parallel in history—these were all new experiences. At the commencement of this war, there were no regularly fortified places in America. A few small forts, chiefly casemated masonry constructions, protected our leading ports, but not one of these was capable of serious resistance either to fleet or land forces armed with modern artillery. Yet no war has furnished more examples of the attack and defence of fortified places. Vicksburg, Port Hudson, Charleston, Richmond, have successfully resisted all attempts at capture by assault. Fort Donelson, Atlanta, Savannah and Fort Fisher, have succumbed to the bravery and determination of our troops. All the works in all these places, except Fort Sumter at Charleston, would come under the catalogue of what are called temporary or field fortifications, yet the history of the sieges of the world does not give any instances of more brilliant and successful defences or more daring assaults. The great and distinctive difference between field and permanent fortification consists in this: that, in the latter, time and labor are spent in providing a permanent obstacle of such a nature that it shall be impossible for the enemy to surprise the work or to approach it for assault except by regular siege operations.

The difficulty with all such permanent obstacles is that none have been hitherto devised not liable to be destroyed by the enemy's artillery from a distance, except two,—a wet ditch—the best of all obstacles when of sufficient depth, but not everywhere available—and a deep counterscarp wall. The escarpments of modern European works, especially of those on the French bastioned system, could all be breached from a distance by modern artillery. The great power of resistance which has been developed both in this war and in the Crimean by earthworks, is due chiefly to an almost entire emancipation of the minds of their constructors from the erroneous and fanciful systems of fortification over which so much time is spent in military instruction. The works have almost of necessity been built just where the ground demanded, and built for one specific purpose; and for that very reason have almost invariably accomplished their purpose. Their defect is, that they are always liable to assault. Hence where the assaulting party can get within charging distance before advancing, and is sufficiently strong and well supported, the work has, as at Fort Donelson and Fort Fisher, been captured. If Fort Wagner was not captured, it was because the assaulting party was not supported as it should have been. If Richmond has not succumbed, if Port Hudson and Vicksburg did not fall before the daring assaults made upon them, it is because the vast extent of the works, and the size of the garrisons rendered it impossible to form and project assaulting columns with sufficient preponderance of force.

The successful assault upon Fort Fisher is a model of good management and brilliant and daring military enterprise. The discipline of our Armies, the strategical manoeuvres of our generals, with a single exception, and even the fighting qualities of our soldiers, have been very severely criticised by those trans-Atlantic friends of ours who talk our language. The last act of their military history affords in all but its failure a parallel to the assault on Fort Fisher. At the same time that the French entered the Malakoff, the English assaulting party left their trenches for the Redan. As at Fort Fisher, the prodigious artillery fire which had driven the defenders to their bomb-proofs had to be stopped, in order that it might not strike equally friend and foe. As at Fort Fisher, the assaulting column reached the salient of the work with great loss, and the defenders retired behind their traverses; but here the parallel fails. After waiting, halting, hesitating, and, at last, refusing to follow their leaders, who went back time after time for reinforcements, the mob of assailants rushed back from the Redan, defeated and demoralized. At Fort Fisher, on the contrary, for seven hours, from traverse

to traverse, the enemy was pursued, grappled, and driven by our determined soldiers.

From the history of the defence of works in this war, certain definite principles may be very clearly laid down.

First. That the European system of constructing large fortresses for the defence of a frontier is useless. If they are small, their garrisons cannot act aggressively; if they are large, they are more useful in the field.

Second. That the best defensive works to enable an army to resist successfully a force not greater than twice their number, are those thrown up by the troops.

Third. That in such exceptional positions as it may be necessary to hold with works having a permanent obstacle to resist assault—as, for instance, a work commanding a series of open shore batteries, and intended to protect them from assault—the nearer the exposed portion approaches to the construction of field fortifications the better.

Fourth. That as sand, especially quartz sand, has been proven to possess a resisting power to shot superior to that of any other dense earth, works prepared beforehand should have their parapets constructed of this material.

Fifth. That too great care cannot be exercised in the choice of both troops and commander, either of the defence or assault of important works—for there are no operations of war which demand more judgment in their preparation or more daring and determination in their execution. A general can only be successful in them, when, like GRANT, he "does not" contemplate a failure."

WAR has often been likened to the game of chess. From the commencement of the grand advances from Nashville to Chattanooga, and from Warrenton upon Richmond and Fredericksburgh, the moves of the rival players could almost be predicted with certainty. The features of the country, the political and military importance of the different strategic points, the systems of railroad and river communication, and the known laws regulating aggressive and defensive military movements rendered all these operations like those of a well-studied opening of which each move was predicable when the forces on either side were known. With SHERMAN's advance through Georgia, the game assumed an entirely new aspect. Here was something not laid down in the books; something to which military history furnishes no parallel. The opposing peoples held their breath in suspense; their hopes and fears influenced rather by their desire for the success or failure of our Armies than by any possibility of predicting the result. Would this daring advance be successful? Might not its advantages, even if successful, be more than neutralized by the abandonment of hardly-earned Tennessee? SHERMAN's triumphant entry into Savannah, THOMAS's crushing defeat of HOOD and energetic pursuit of him beyond the Tennessee; the brilliant capture of Fort Fisher, have filled all loyal hearts with confidence, and have altered the whole aspect of affairs. Hardly halting to secure his new base of operations, SHERMAN is already in motion; THOMAS is forwarding to the new field every man not absolutely necessary to hold the crippled and demoralized forces of HOOD in check; and every sign from GRANT and from LEE indicates an impending contest. The opportunity is favorable—before the blow is struck—for reviewing the new appearances and casting an augury for the future. Richmond has always been the seat and is now the centre of continued armed resistance to the enforcement of the laws and the Constitution of the United States; and against it all the forces of the country are now brought into combined operation. The very peculiar nature of the ground, the formidable character of the Rebel works, and the large Army of well-trained and disciplined soldiers under LEE which garrisons it, have rendered all direct assaults upon it by GRANT comparatively unsuccessful. Its lines of supply were once and again damaged when Chattanooga and Atlanta fell into our hands. With SHERMAN's capture of Savannah, a position is obtained from which its only other line of communication with the rest of the States in rebellion is easily assailable. Branchville is but 40 miles from Pocotaligo, now in SHERMAN's hands; Charleston, the birthplace and nursery of rebellion, is but 50 miles. With the possession of the former, the last railroad link that connects Richmond with Georgia is severed. With the

possession of the latter, the prestige of rebellion in South Carolina is gone. If the enemy has any force capable of preventing SHERMAN's successful advance upon these places, would it not have been given to HARDEE to defend Savannah? GRANT, by pressing and watching LEE, ought to be able to prevent him from detaching any of the troops for the relief of Charleston. If GRANT can hold LEE where he is, SHERMAN will take care of Charleston and all South Carolina. From what source then is serious, long-continued opposition to SHERMAN to be derived? We see neither in the military nor the moral condition of the enemy any means for the organization of a force which can even afford promise of a successful opposition to SHERMAN's onward career. In the capture of Fort Fisher GRANT has already prepared another foothold for SHERMAN upon the coast. Had BUTLER, like GRANT not "contemplated a failure," Wilmington would, doubtless, have been ours with less loss than was suffered in the second assault. But, as it is, the fall of the city cannot long be deferred. BRAGG, to whom its defence has been entrusted, never has been nor can be successful. He has never had confidence in his troops, nor they in him: and without this the greatest military talent is unavailing. His very name is to us an augury of success, to our enemies of failure.

That every known resource will be brought in play to defer this inevitable catastrophe we do not doubt. That DAVIS and LEE will give up the struggle even when it seems hopeless to all but themselves we cannot conceive. Virginia, if the last to espouse the Rebel cause, has been its main stay throughout the struggle. Without it the war would not have continued twelve months. Its soldiers and its generals have nobly sustained, though in a bad cause, the reputation of the "mother of presidents." Determined attacks upon GRANT and SHERMAN, prolonged defences of every available point in the advance of the latter, and when these are no longer possible, a great expeditionary raid, such as SHERMAN has taught our enemies, as well as our own generals, to be possible in a fertile and flourishing country—all these things we must expect, and with them those violent oscillations of hope and fear which no experience of the uncertainties of war can teach our people to avoid. But of this we may be certain; that the end is now clearly at hand, the goal in sight, and no temporary reverses can prevent the impending fate which the successful moves of our brilliant commanders have prepared.

How intimately what is profanely called red-tape is connected with the life and reputation of great officers, has been shown in the case of General BUTLER during the present week. For months he has been charged by his enemies with having abstracted and converted to his own use fifty thousand dollars in gold, belonging to a mercantile firm in New Orleans. The explanation given in the House of Representatives, of the facts upon which this charge was founded, show clearly that he was not guilty or blamable in act or intention. He took the money at the instance of civil officers; he applied it irregularly to a useful public purpose; and having done well, he received only cruel blame. This was the penalty, not of the act, but of the irregular manner in which it was done. So of another case related of him, that of a certain "sugar speculation," as it was called by his enemies. In that affair, too, General BUTLER appears to have been animated solely by regard for the public good; more than that, the end completely justified his action; he not only meant but actually accomplished good. But the irregularity of the act subjected him to the most injurious aspersions.

He cut red-tape, and red-tape was revenged upon him. Was he therefore to blame? It is difficult to judge in such cases; certainly it is impossible to lay down a general rule. A commander must judge for himself—but let him remember that he takes his reputation in his hands, whenever he determines to "cut red-tape." Nor is this wrong; for if men were easily excused for violating, even for good ends, those rules and forms by which public business is carried on, we should presently come to disorders of all kinds; and the door would be opened for all kinds of usurpations of power.

The case of General BUTLER has been recently discussed a good deal; his friends have defended him vigorously; and the injustice which the public came

near doing him, is, we think and hope, put aside. Men judge him more discriminatingly, and remember his good qualities, as well as his faults and errors. Yet, unless we misjudge the public opinion, there is a general acquiescence in his removal; a very general consent that he shall be set aside, at least for the present.

And this acquiescence and consent are not caused by his failure at Fort Fisher, or at Dutch Gap. It is absurd to say that anybody expected success from any military enterprise with which General BUTLER was entrusted. The public expected failure from him in such affairs, because it was convinced that his great abilities lay not at all in that direction. It has always struck us with surprise that a man as shrewd and clear-headed as BUTLER should be ready to attempt tasks for which he must or ought to know himself unfitted. An administrator of great and undoubted talent, his management of affairs in Baltimore, in New Orleans, and in New York has reflected high credit upon him. At the same time, whenever he has taken upon himself the duties of a general in the field, he has failed. From Big Bethel to Fort Fisher, he has not a military victory to his name. Nor is this surprising. He has never had experience. While other volunteer officers were learning the art of war in the field, BUTLER was, as we think, more usefully employed in labors of civil administration.

The satisfaction at his retirement comes, not from surprise and discontent with his military failures, but from the feeling that the possession of power had had a bad effect upon him, and that he had ceased to be a safe servant for a free people.

A man of immense energy, of powerful will, and of a hasty temper, he has, according to the testimony even of his friends, become arbitrary, tyrannical, imperious, regardless of laws and regulations, riding too roughly and too readily over established forms and usages. That so many, even of those who heartily admire his talents and are grateful for his services, view with quiet satisfaction his fall, arises probably, for the most part, from the fact that the tales of his arbitrary, reckless, and unscrupulous use of power had undermined their confidence in him as the servant of a free people.

And herein let his fall be a warning to others as well as to himself. However patiently the American people may bear, in great emergencies, with the exercise of arbitrary power; whatever price they may be willing, temporarily, to pay for efficiency and vigor, they never fail to resent, and to punish, at the proper time, those who have in this way offended against their rights and dignity. They do not forget, and they ought not. In the almost universal acquiescence in General BUTLER's removal, men of his mould and temper may see the fate which is surely theirs. It would be a fatal sign of the decadence of liberty amongst us, if the mass of our people could view with patience or with approval such irregular efficiency, such unbalanced qualities as General BUTLER's. Something a free nation must always lack, which a despotism has, and just the kind of reckless efficiency which General BUTLER has, is the quality by which despots often become for a while successful and powerful—only to fail in the end, as all history tells us.

THE recent congratulatory order of SHERMAN to "the troops composing the Military Division of the Mississippi," published elsewhere in our official columns, will repay attentive perusal. It is his own judgment upon that ever-memorable double campaign projected by him at Atlanta—"the campaign just closed," as he phrases it, "resulting in the capture of Savannah and the defeat of HOOD's army in Tennessee." SHERMAN takes pains to divide all the praise of the campaign equally among the great Armies to whom he entrusted its fortunes, and even "embraces in the same general success the operations of the cavalry column under Generals STONEMAN, BURBRIDGE and GILLEN, that penetrated into 'Southwestern Virginia.'" He refers to the happy simultaneousness of the two great victories of this campaign, "extending over half a continent," by saying: "Almost at the moment of our victorious entry into Savannah came the welcome and expected news that our comrades in Tennessee had also fulfilled, nobly and well, their part." And, that the soldiers in both Armies may rejoice in each others' successes, in a generous, brotherly sympathy, he adds: "The Armies serving in Georgia and Tennessee, as well as the local garrisons of Decatur, Bridgeport, Chattanooga and Murfreesboro, are alike entitled to the common honor, and each regiment may inscribe on its colors at pleasure the words 'Savannah' or 'Nashville.'"

OBITUARY.

ACTING ENGINEER JOHN S. GRISCOM.

At a meeting of the officers of the U. S. steamer *Mackinaw*, held this day, ABRAHAM J. LOUGH, Executive Officer, was chosen Chairman, and Dr. J. F. COTTRELL, Secretary, when the following preamble and resolutions were read and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, in His all-wise Providence, to take from us our beloved brother officer, Acting Engineer JOHN S. GRISCOM, while in the discharge of his duty in the action against the Rebel stronghold, Fort Fisher, on the 26th inst., and

Whereas, Our esteemed friend had endeared himself to us by his kind disposition, unflinching courage, and manly deportment, it was

Resolved, That we deeply mourn the loss of our deceased brother, kind friend and associate.

Resolved, That in the death of our deceased brother the naval service has lost one of its most unflinching officers and brightest ornaments.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with his family and friends in their affliction, who are left to mourn the loss of a kind husband, affectionate father, and dutiful son; trusting that God, in His infinite mercy, will give them strength to bear up in this, their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That we procure a metallic burial case for his remains and forward them to his family.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and that they be published in the *Philadelphia Presbyterian*, *Inquirer* and *The Army and Navy Journal*.

ABRAHAM J. LOUGH, Executive Officer, Chairman.

J. F. COTTRELL, Secretary.

U. S. STEAMER *MACKINAW*, December 23, 1864.

TRIALS BEFORE NAVAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

CASE OF ACTING THIRD ASSISTANT ENGINEER GEORGE W. LATHAM.

New York, July 20, 1864.

CHARGE 1.—Absence without leave.

SPECIFICATION.—March 31, 1864, from U. S. steamer *Newbern*, at New York.

CHARGE 2.—Drunkenness.

SPECIFICATION.—March 31, 1864, on board U. S. steamer *Newbern* at New York.

CHARGE 3.—Assaulting and abusing an officer.

SPECIFICATION.—March 30, 1864, on board U. S. steamer *Newbern*, at New York, accused assaulted and abused Acting Master's Mate ADOLPHUS LAMBERGEN.

It appeared in evidence that the accused, who was attached to the *Newbern*, then lying at the Navy Yard, New York, came on board the vessel on the morning of the 26th or 31st of March, 1864, and sat down at the breakfast table in the stowage. Acting Master's Mate LAMBERGEN, who was the caterer of the mess, asked him for his mess bill, having heard that he had received money from the Paymaster the day before, and owing the mess some \$12. The accused flew into a passion, and told Mr. LAMBERGEN not to throw that up in his face again, and called him "a Dutch lousy son of a bitch," and then threw a cup of coffee in his face, throwing the cup immediately afterwards, which broke on Mr. LAMBERGEN's arm. Other officers present then interfered and put a stop to the disturbance. The accused was intoxicated at the time. Efforts were made to settle the matter amicably, but the accused declined to apologize, and was reported to the Executive Officer, who ordered him under arrest. The same day, or the next, he attempted, but without success, to escape from the charge of the sentry while going to the round house, being still intoxicated.

His previous character for sobriety and quietness and general conduct had been good. He was sent on board the *North Carolina* about April 1st, and confined on the orlop-deck, below the waterline, until about April 27th, after which he was taken up to the gun-deck and messes with the officers of his grade. He remained on the *North Carolina* till about July 1st, when he was sent to Philadelphia for trial, and on the removal of the Court to New York July 17th, was returned to the *North Carolina*.

FINDING.—Specification of first charge "Not proven," that of the first charge is "Not Guilty;" specifications of 2d and 3d charges "Proven," and that of both these charges accused is "Guilty."

SENTENCE.—"To be suspended from duty two months from the date of sentence, and during that time to be confined within the limits of the U. S. Receiving Ship at the New York Navy Yard, and to be reprimanded by the Hon. Secretary of the Navy in General Orders."

The sentence was disapproved, and the accused relieved from arrest and ordered to duty. (See General Order No. 40, Series of 1864, ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, Vol. I., p.)

CASE OF WILLIAM M'KAY, ORDINARY SEAMAN.

New York, July 23, 1864.

CHARGE.—Desertion.

SPECIFICATION.—December 14, 1863, from U. S. steamer *Mohican*, at Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope.

It appeared in evidence that the *Mohican* was lying at Cape Town, coaling from lighters. The accused got drunk and went on shore in one of the lighters. The coxswains were all called up and ordered not to allow the accused in the boats or to bring him off to the vessel. Three or four days afterwards, on the day when the vessel was to sail, accused came off in a shore boat. The commander of the *Mohican*, Captain GLISSON, told the sentry not to allow accused to come on board. Accused said to Captain GLISSON, that he had \$200 in gold in the hands of the Doctor (which was a fact), that he wanted to get this money and he would then go ashore again. Captain GLISSON then ordered the sentry to let accused come on board, when he was put in double irons in the "brig," and kept there till the 16th of April, 1864, when the *Mohican* arrived at New York. He was then transferred to the Receiving Ship *North Carolina* and kept in double irons in the "brig" on the orlop-deck, till he was sent to Philadelphia for trial July 10th or 12th, and was there in single irons till the removal of the Court to New York, July 17th, when he was returned to the *North Carolina*, and again confined in the "brig," but in single irons.

He was a good seaman, had a good character when sober; and had been for awhile captain of the foretop. His time had expired some months at the time the offence was committed.

FINDING.—Specification "Not Proven" so far as it alleges "Desertion;" but that it is proven that the accused at time and place mentioned was "absent without leave" from the *Mohican*. That of the charge accused is "Not Guilty," but that he is "Guilty" of "absence from his duty without leave."

SENTENCE.—"To forfeit one month's pay." The Court, in view of the long and severe imprisonment of the accused, "strongly" recommended him to mercy. The sentence was approved.

FORT FISHER.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF REAR-ADMIRAL PORTER.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON,
UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP *MAINE*.

OFF FORT FISHER, Jan. 17, 1865.

SIR.—I had the honor to make you a short report on the 15th, stating to you that Fort Fisher had been captured by the military and naval forces, having received all or nearly all the information required to make out a complete report.

As soon as Major-General Terry arrived at Beaufort, N. C., which he did on the 8th of January, we arranged together a plan of operations, which has proved successful.

The weather was threatening, and I advised the General to get his transports inside the harbor to avoid the violence of the coming gale. Most of them, however, laid outside.

The gale blew very heavy for two days and nights—the ships of war all held on, and rode out at their anchors, except the *Colorado*, which vessel was obliged to go to sea, having only one anchor left, with which alone she could not possibly have ridden out the gale, the sea being very heavy from the southwest, and breaking close over the vessel. Knowing that the transports had arrived, the commanders all made strenuous exertions to keep their vessels at anchor off Beaufort, to be ready for the move that was about to be made.

Having expended almost every shot and shell in the first bombardment, it became necessary to take in about fifteen thousand more, and fill up with coal, which was done under the most adverse circumstances, the large vessels all laying outside in a heavy sea, and filling up as best they could.

The fleet, accompanied by the transports, steamed away on the 12th for Fort Fisher, and the wind being fair and moderate, I was in hopes that we would be able to land the troops by 9 or 10 o'clock that night; the wind changing to southwest, we were obliged to anchor off Half-moon Battery for the night. The fleet sailed in three columns.

Line No. 1, led by the *Breton*, Captain James Allen, consisted of the *Mohican*, Commander Danforth Ammen; *Tacony*, Lieutenant-Commander W. T. Truxton; *Kansas*, Lieutenant-Commander G. P. Watmough; *Yantic*, Lieutenant-Commander T. C. Harris; *Unadilla*, Lieutenant-Commander F. M. Ramsey; *Huron*, Lieutenant-Commander T. O. Selfridge; *Musnier*, Lieutenant-Commander Ralph Chandler; *Peguet*, Lieutenant-Commander D. L. Braine; *Pautuquet*, Commander J. H. Spotts; *Seneca*, Lieutenant-Commander M. S. Sear; *Pontoon*, Lieutenant-Commander W. G. Temple; *Nereus*, Commander J. C. Howell.

Line No. 2, *Minnesota*, Commander Joseph Lauman, leading, consisted of the *Colorado*, Commodore H. K. Thatcher; *Wabash*, Captain M. Smith; *Susquehanna*, Commodore S. W. Gordon; *Ponchartraine*, Commodore J. F. Schenck; *Junista*, Lieutenant-Commander F. S. Phelps; *Shenandoah*, Captain D. B. Ridgely; *Riondora*, Captain Charles Steadman; *Vanderbilt*, Captain C. W. Pickering; *Mackinac*, Commander J. C. Beaumont; *Tuscarora*, Commander J. M. Frailley.

Line No. 3, *Santiago de Cuba*, Captain O. S. Glisson, leading, consisted of *Fort Jackson*, Captain B. F. Sands; *Oceola*, Commander J. M. B. Clitz; *Sassacus*, Lieutenant-Commander J. L. Davis; *Chippewa*, Lieutenant-Commander E. E. Potter; *R. R. Cuyler*, Commander C. H. R. Caldwell; *Maratanza*, Lieutenant-Commander George W. Young; *Monticello*, Lieutenant W. B. Cushing; *Alabama*, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant T. C. Dunn; *Rhode Island*, Commander S. D. Trenchard; *Isco*, Commander John Guest. The reserve division, under Lieutenant-Commander J. H. Uphur, in the *A. D. Phelps*, consisted of the *Britannia*, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant W. B. Sheldon; *Tristram Shandy*, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant F. M. Green; *Lillian*, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant T. A. Harris; *Portsmouth*, Acting Master G. W. Frost; *Wilderness*, Acting Master H. Arcey; *Arica*, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant F. S. Wells; *Governor Bachman*, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant J. McDonald. The *Massachusetts*, Acting Master J. H. Porter; *Little Ada*, Acting Master S. P. Crafts; *Edwin*, Acting Master E. S. Keyser, and *Republic*, Acting Ensign J. W. Bennett, being used as dispatch vessels.

Great enthusiasm was displayed in the fleet when it was ascertained that troops had come to renew the attack on Fort Fisher, for great was the disappointment on account of the late failure.

Some of the vessels that accompanied the expedition were badly damaged in various ways. The *Sassacus* had both her rudders disabled, but her energetic commander, Lieutenant-Commander J. L. Davis, was ready in time. The *Mackinaw*, Commander J. C. Beaumont, had one of her boilers knocked to pieces, but her commander would go on one boiler. The *Oceola*, Commander J. M. B. Clitz, in the same condition, one boiler smashed up with shot, and a hole near the bottom, was ready for anything, and I heard no complaints from any one. With such a disposition on the part of the officers, I anticipated the most favorable result.

At daylight on the 11th instant Line No. 1 took position within six hundred yards of the beach, to land the troops, Lines No. 2 and No. 3 anchoring close to and outside of them, and the reserves taking charge of the provision vessels.

At 8:30 A. M., signal was made to the fleet to send boats to transports to land troops. At 2 P. M., we had landed 8,000 men, with twelve days' provisions and all their entrenching tools.

In the meantime, the *New Ironsides*, Commodore William Radford; *Sanguis*, Commander E. R. Calhoun; *Canonicus*, Lieutenant-Commander George E. Selknap; *Mahepac*, Lieutenant-Commander A. W. Weaver, and *Monadnock*, Commander E. G. Parrott, were ordered in to take a nearer position, the outside vessel, the *Ironsides*, being one thousand yards from Fort Fisher, which was the principal work, and on which the iron vessels were ordered to pour all their fire, and endeavor to dismount all the guns. They got into position about 5 A. M., and opened fire deliberately.

The troops having all landed without opposition, at 3 P. M. I signalled Line No. 2 to get under way, and go in and attack. Line No. 1 was signalled to take position in front of the batteries, and Line No. 3 was to remain and cover the landing party, and get the field artillery on shore. The different lines, having formed into lines of battle, steamed toward Fort Fisher—the *Colorado* leading, the *Minnesota* having got a hawser around her propeller. The vessels took their positions handsomely (having had some practice at that place), and delivered their fire as they fell in. The rapid fire of the *Monitors* and *Ironsides* kept the Rebels partly away from their guns, and they inflicted no damage on the fleet, the firing being very unsteady; indeed, I do not see how they could fire at all after Lines Nos. 1 and 2 got fairly anchored in position. The bombardment was very rapid and severe. This was continued without intermission from 4 A. M. until some time after dark, when the wooden vessels were ordered to haul out and anchor. The *Monitors* and *Ironsides* were directed to keep up the fire during the night. The enemy had long ceased to respond to our fire, and kept in his bomb-proof.

I could see that our fire had damaged some of their guns, and I determined that before the Army went to the assault, there should be no guns within our reach to arrest their progress.

Having found that the Rebels could still bring some heavy guns to bear, I determined to try another place, and on the morning of the 14th, ordered in all the small gunboats carrying 11-inch guns, to fire slowly and try and dismount the guns on the face of the work where the assault was to be made. The *Brocklyn* was ordered to throw a pretty quick fire to keep the Rebels from working their guns. The attack was commenced at 1 P. M., and lasted until after dark.

One or two guns only were fired this day from the upper batteries, inflicting no serious damage on any of the vessels, except cutting away the mainmast of the *Huron*, and hitting the *Unadilla* once or twice. These guns were always silenced when a rapid fire was opened. The attack of the gunboats lasted until 1 A. M. after dark, and one vessel was employed firing (an hour each) throughout the night.

On this evening, General Terry came on board to see me, and arrange the plan of battle for the next day. The troops had got rested after their long confinement on shipboard and sea-voyage, and had recovered from the arduous they received when landing through the surf. Having been long enough on their native element, they were eager for the attack.

It was arranged between the General and myself that the ships should go in early, and fire rapidly throughout the day, until the time for the

assault arrived. The hour named was 3 P. M. I detailed 1,000 sailors, and 400 marines to accompany the troops in the assault—the sailors to board the sea face, while the troops assaulted the land side.

Most all of the sailors were armed with cutlasses and revolvers, while a number had Sharp's rifles or short carbines. I herewith enclose the order of attack on the fort, and the manner of approaching it. There was a perfect understanding between the General and myself, and a system of signals established (by the Army code) by which we could converse at our pleasure, though nearly a mile apart, and amid the din of battle.

At 9 A. M. on the 15th, the squadron was signalled to attack in three lines, or assume position marked on the plan herewith enclosed. All the vessels reached position at about 11 A. M., and opened fire as they got their anchor down.

The same guns in the upper batteries opened again this day with some effect, as you will see by reference to the reports of the different commanders; but no vessel was injured sufficiently to interfere in the least with her efficiency. The fire was kept up furiously all day. The Mound Hill Battery kept up rather a galling fire with its two heavy guns, but the Rebels were driven away from their works into their bomb-proofs, so that no vessel was in the least disabled.

At 2 o'clock, I expected the signal for the vessels to "change the direction of their fire," so that the troops might assault. The sailors and marines had worked, by digging ditches or rifle-pits to within two hundred yards of the fort, and were all ready. The troops, however, did not get into position until later, and at 3 o'clock the signal came.

The vessels changed their fire to the upper batteries, all the steam-whistles were blown, and the troops and sailors dashed ahead, nobly vying with each other to reach the top of the parapet. We had evidently (we thought) injured all the large guns so that they could not be fired to annoy any one. The sailors took the assault by the flank, along the beach, while the troops rushed in at the left, through the palisades that had been knocked away by the fire of our guns.

All the arrangements on the part of the sailors had been well carried out; they had succeeded in getting up to within a short distance of the fort, and laid securely in their ditches. We had but very few killed and wounded to this point. The marines were to have held the rifle-pits and the beach party, which they failed to do. On rushing through the palisades, which extended from the fort to the sea, the head of the column received a murderous fire of grape and canister, which did not, however, check the officers and sailors who were leading. The parapets now swarmed with Rebels, who poured in a destructive fire of musketry. At this moment, had the marines performed their duty, every one of the Rebels on the parapet would have been killed.

I witnessed the whole affair; saw how recklessly the Rebels exposed themselves and what an advantage they gave our sharpshooters, whose guns were scarcely fired, or fired with no precision. Notwithstanding the hot fire, officers and sailors in the lead rushed on, and some even reached the parapet, a large number having reached the ditch.

The advance was swept from the parapet like chaff, and, notwithstanding all the efforts made by the commanders of companies to stop them, the men in the rear, seeing the slaughter in front, and that they were not covered by the marines, commenced to retreat; and, as there is no stopping a sailor if he falls on such an occasion on the first rush, I saw the whole thing had to be given up. In the meantime the troops were more successful on their side. The Rebels, seeing so large a body of men coming at them on the sea side, were under the impression that it was the main attack, and concentrated the largest part of their forces at that point; and, when they gave three rebels cheers, thinking that they had gained the day, they received a volley of musketry in their backs from our gallant soldiers, who had been successful in gaining the highest parapet. They commenced such a system of fighting as has never been beaten. Our soldiers had gained two traverses, while I directed the *Ironsides* to fire on the traverses occupied by the Rebels. Four, five and six traverses were carried by our troops in the space of an hour.

These traverses are immense bomb-proofs, about sixty feet long, fifty feet wide, and twenty feet high—seventeen of them in all—being in the northeast face. Between each traverse or bomb-proof are one or two heavy guns. The fighting lasted until 10 o'clock at night, the *Ironsides* and *Monitors* firing through the traverses in advance of our troops, and the level strip of land, called Federal Point, being enfiladed by the ships to prevent reinforcements reaching the Rebels.

General Terry himself went into the fort, and I kept up constant communication with him, until three hearty cheers, which were taken up by the fleet, announced the capture of Fort Fisher. Finding that the General felt anxious about the enemy receiving reinforcements, I directed the sailors and marines to relieve the troops in the outer line of our defences, and a large number of soldiers were thus enabled to join our forces in the fort.

It will not be amiss for me to remark here, that I never saw anything like the fearless gallantry and endurance displayed by one troops. They fought like lions, and knew no such word as fail. They finally fought and chased the Rebels from traverse to traverse, until they reached Battery Lamb at the Mound—a face of work extending about 1,400 yards in length. At this point the Rebels broke and fled to the end of Federal Point. Our troops followed them up, and they surrendered at discretion.

Thus ended one of the most remarkable battles on record, and one which will do more damage to the Rebel cause than any that has taken place in this war. Twenty-three hundred Rebels manned Fort Fisher; nineteen hundred were taken prisoners, the rest were killed and wounded.

I may have stated some inaccuracies with regard to these military matters, which I will leave to General Terry to supply.

I have since visited Fort Fisher and its adjoining works, and find their strength greatly beyond what I had conceived. An engineer might be excusable in saying they could not be captured, except by regular siege. I wonder even now how it was done. The work, as I said before, is really stronger than the Malakoff Tower, which defied so long the combined power of France and England, and yet it is captured by a handful of men, under the fire of the guns of the fleet, and in seven hours after the attack commenced in earnest.

I cannot say too much in praise of the conduct of the fleet during the time we have been engaged in these operations. I do not know an officer in command who has not performed his duty to the best of his ability. There may be some who have done better than others, but after all, that may be a matter of opinion, or a matter of prejudice or partiality. All did their best, and we can ask no more.

To make divisions distinctions in a report of this kind, would be causing matter for dispute, and I shall content myself with saying that the Government may well be proud of those whom it has entrusted here with the command of the vessels.

I leave each commander to tell what his subordinates have done, and refer the Department to the reports of divisional commanders for an account of what they saw and did. I will, however, make a special report of what I consider due to those who have been engaged in this contest, and have persistently fought for the Union.

I refer you to Lieutenant-Commander K. R. Broeze, who led the assault. The result was not what I expected when I planned the attack, but it would have succeeded without severe loss had the marines performed their duty. As it is we have lost heavily, and the country has lost some gallant officers who fell on the enemy's ramparts.

The success is so great that we should not complain. Men, it seems, must die that this Union may live; and the Constitution under which we have gained our prosperity must be maintained. We regret our companions in arms, and shed a tear over their remains; but if these Rebels should succeed we would have nothing but regret left us, and our lives would be spent in terror and sorrow.

As soon as the forts were taken, I pushed the light-draught gunboats into the river—that is, as soon as I could find and buoy out a channel and take up the torpedoes, which were very thick. We found the wires leading to many and underrun them with boats. We found the torpedoes too heavy to lift with our ordinary boats, and they must have contained at least a ton of powder. The Rebels seemed disposed to pay us back for the famous torpedo *Louisiana*, which exploded in their harbor and did them no harm.

We had some difficulty in getting the vessels across the bar into the river, as the channel is very narrow and the bar very shoal; a few of them got stuck, but were got off again with the tide. We all came to the conclusion that we had followed the right plan to capture Fort Fisher, one in which the national man of any sense will concur. After I got three of the gunboats inside of the bar and under the Mound, the Rebels prepared to evacuate Fort Caswell. Two steamers near the fort, which, I think, were the *Tallahassee* and *Chickamauga*, were set fire to and blown up, after the Rebels had set fire to the fort. That blew up last night, with a heavy explosion, followed by some minor ones. The barracks were apparently in flames all night, and some little works between this and Caswell blown up. I have sent vessels to see what had been done, and shall be governed accordingly. I think they are burning up everything in Wilmington, and are getting away as fast as they can. In the meantime, a large force of gunboats occupy the river between Caswell and Wilmington; that place is hermetically sealed against blockade-runners, and no *Alabama*, or *Florida*, or *Chickamauga*, or *Tallahassee*, will ever sit out again from this port, and our merchant vessels will soon, I hope, be enabled to pursue in safety their avocation.

I send you a list of killed and wounded. We have lost more than I at first estimated.

We expended in the bombardment about fifty thousand shells, and have as much on board.

I feel much indebted to the Bureau of Ordnance for so promptly supplying us with ammunition and guns. I regret that some one stopped the supply of coal—which should have been doubly increased—for it was very near defeating this expedition. Had we not been supplied by the Army this expedition would have been a failure.

We shall move along carefully—have no vessels blown up with torpedoes, if I can help it, and I think we will be in Wilmington before long.

You may rest satisfied, sir, that the gate through which the Rebels obtained their supplies is closed forever, and we can sit here quietly and watch the traitors starve.

I enclose you a number of reports—dry, though necessary details—with which I will not overload my report (already too long) on such an interesting occasion.

The number of guns captured in these works amount to seventy-five, many of them superb rifled pieces of very heavy calibre. All those facing the ships were dismantled, or injured, so they could not be used, or the muzzles were filled up with sand or dirt, which rendered them useless.

I only saw two that were not rendered useless.

I believe we have burst all the rifled guns left in the fort—one on the *Surgeons*, one on the *Piquet*, and one on the *Oceola*—and I think the reputation of these guns is now about ruined.

I shall take occasion, in another dispatch, to call your attention to those officers who I consider worthy of the most praise, and the approbation and notice of the Department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.

To Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

REPORT OF FLEET CAPTAIN K. R. BREESE. THE NAVAL ASSAULT ON FORT FISHER.

FLAGSHIP MALVERN, OFF FORT FISHER, N. C., January 16.

Rear-Admiral DAVID D. PORTER, commanding North Atlantic Squadron: Sir—I have to report that in obedience to your order I represented your flag in commanding the assault on Fort Fisher and beg leave to state as follows:

Lieutenant S. W. Preston had charge of a force of about ten men from each ship with axes and picks, and threw up within six hundred yards of the fort a well protected breast work, and from that gradually advanced to within two hundred yards a succession of rifle pits, which were most promptly occupied by a line of skirmishers composed of marines, under Second Lieutenant L. E. Fagen, U.S.M.C. The manner in which this was done reflects most creditably upon Lieutenant Preston. As the advance was made he came to me and reported his work finished, and asked that he might be employed in any way. Lieutenant Preston's services were most useful to me, and in his last moments he attempted to send me word that he had carried out my orders.

The assaulting party was composed of about sixteen hundred seamen and four hundred marines, divided into four lines, as follows: First line, composed of marines, Captain L. L. Dawson, U.S.M.C., commanding. Second line, composed of the landing party of the first and fourth divisions of the squadron, Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Cushman, commanding. Third line, composed of the landing party of the second division of the squadron, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander James Parker, who most generously waived his seniority upon reading your orders that I should represent you on shore. Fourth line, composed of the landing party of the third division of the squadron, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander T. O. Selfridge. The second, third, and fourth lines were of about equal strength.

It was intended that the men should assault in line, the marines acting as sharpshooters, and the different lines were to charge over them; but from the difficulty I had of informing myself of the time when the Army was to assault, which was to guide our movements, that moment found us too far off to move to the attack unless under cover. When I discovered that the Army was moving to attack the fort, I ordered the men to advance by the flank, along the beach, hoping to be able to form them for the assault under cover of the marines; but four hundred yards distant, exposed to a most galling fire of musketry, threw a portion of the marines into the first line and the rest of them did not take position as they should.

The second and third lines came along and the heads of the three lines joined and formed one compact column, which, filling up to the sea face of Fort Fisher, assaulted to within fifty yards of the parapet, which was lined with one dense mass of musketeers, who played and harrowed with our men. Although exposed to a most severe fire from the enemy, the men were rallied three times under the personal encouragement and exposure of their commanding officers, but failed to gain much ground. A few officers and men reached the parapet. I don't know their names, but they will doubtless be found in the report of the officers accompanying the party.

The marines, having failed to occupy their position, gave the enemy an almost un molested fire upon us.

Men armed with Sharps' rifles and the few marines in the front opened the fire, but it was too feeble to be of avail. Finding the front of the men retreating, I hastened toward it to form them under cover and have them use their rifles, but they were too far distant for me to reach them and I accordingly returned to a position near the works. As I did so the remaining men, notwithstanding all attempts to stop them, fled, with the exception of about sixty, among whom were Lieutenant-Commanders James Parker, C. H. Cushman, T. O. Selfridge, and M. d'Arcy, and Lieutenants N. H. Farquhar and R. H. Lamson, the latter of whom was wounded, and several volunteer officers whose names I unfortunately do not know.

The fire of the enemy was so severe that the few of our men remaining had to seek such cover as they could, and there remained until dark, when a demonstration upon the part of the Rebels induced all to make a rush, and most succeeded in escaping.

The country will regret the death of Lieutenant S. W. Preston, acting as my aide in carrying orders, who was killed in front; and of Lieutenant R. H. Porter, killed in the early assault, at the head of the column; and of several volunteer officers, seamen, and marines, killed during the attack.

Of Assistant Surgeon William Longshaw special mention should be made, on account of his great bravery and attention to the wounded under the hottest fire, until finally he fell a victim in the very act of binding up the wounds of a marine.

I can but attribute the failure of the assault to the absence of the marines from their position, as their fire would have enabled our boarders to use their cutlasses and pistols most effectively. By this I would imply that the lack of proper organization, it being impossible in the short space of time, on account of throwing so many small squads of men from the different vessels together in one mass, lacking proper company formations, and wholly unacquainted with each other, to secure such organization.

This led to the confusion exhibited, for it was not due to any want of personal valor on the part of the officers or men.

Although the officers and men were exposed to a severe fire from the enemy, to them of a novel character and upon a novel element, which would have tried veterans, yet they advanced nobly, and the survivors must be satisfied that they contributed, in no small degree, to the success of the Army. The enemy believing, as I am informed, that the main assault was to come from us, were much surprised upon looking to their rear to find the Army so far advanced in their works.

The medical officers sent on shore with the landing party established their field hospital at a work about a mile from the fort, where Assistant Surgeon B. H. Kidder took charge of the wounded who were conveyed there, and their wants attended to as well as circumstances would permit.

As near as I could estimate, there were about sixty-five killed and two hundred wounded.

Lieutenant-Commander W. B. Cushing in the extreme front, finding nothing could be done, left with the retreating men and succeeded finally in rallying them, and at the request of General Terry, occupied the lines near his headquarters, which enabled him to withdraw men to reinforce his force in the fort.

Being a witness to the assault of the Army after our repulse, I cannot but express my admiration of the extreme gallantry of its attack.

Where one act of personal bravery was displayed on the part of the enemy, a dozen or more were conspicuous on our part; and it was a most imposing sight to see how splendidly our brave soldiers did their work.

In conclusion I would say that I may have omitted the names of officers who have distinguished themselves by their gallantry, yet I could not fail to mention those above named who came personally under my notice, and I trust that the commanding officers of the assaulting lines will do justice to all.

To Lieutenant-Commander James Parker, I would say that I was a witness to his efforts to advance the men to the free exposure of his person, and, although ranking me, he would let no obstacle of that nature interpose and check his endeavors to do his utmost to capture the fort.

To your Secretary, Mr. C. P. Porter, acting as my aide, I am very much indebted. Though frequently sent in the rear with orders, he was most promptly back, and, at the assault, he was found at the front.

Although the assaulting party failed, I think it but due to those who advanced, and to the memories of the slain, to claim for them, through their strong demonstration, a corresponding resistance from the enemy, and a weakening of the Rebel defence toward our Army.

I have been informed by the officers who conversed with prisoners, that the enemy believed ours to be the main assault, and concentrated against us their main force. In saying this I would not wish to be understood in the least to detract from the splendid gallantry exhibited by our Army, which was worthy of the highest commendation that can be bestowed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

K. R. BREESE, Fleet-Captain.

REPORT OF GENERAL AMES.

OPERATIONS OF THE SECOND DIVISION, TWENTY-FOURTH ARMY CORPS, AT FORT FISHER.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION, TWENTY-FOURTH ARMY CORPS, FORT FISHER, N. C., January 16, 1865.

Captain A. TERRY, Assistant Adjutant-General:—I have the honor to submit the following report of the late movements and operations of this division:

On the night of the 21st the division, which had just returned to its camp from a demonstration against this point, received orders to prepare for a second expedition. It left camp on the 3d, and embarked on ocean transports at Bermuda Hundred between the hours of seven and nine P. M., on the 4th instant.

The transport fleet sailed from Fortress Monroe on the morning of the 6th, and the troops disembarked some four miles north of Fort Fisher on the 13th instant.

At three o'clock P. M. on the 14th we stormed Fort Fisher. Brevet Brigadier-General N. M. Curtis' brigade (the first) made a lodgment on the northwest angle of the fort. Immediately ordered up Colonel G. A. Pennyacker's brigade (the second). The enemy was at once driven from behind the palisading extending from the fort to the river, and about one-third of the work—its northwest angle—occupied by us. I then ordered up Colonel L. B. Bell's brigade (the third), and moved it forward against and in rear of the sea face of the work, the ground being most obstructed by the ruins of the barracks, lumber and other rubbish; and the enemy, being protected by traverses and taking advantage of the cover afforded by magazines, &c., checked our advance.

Fighting of a most obstinate character continued till after dark, during which time we made considerable advancement on the left, and captured about four hundred prisoners.

About eight o'clock P. M., Colonel Abbott, with his brigade, completed the occupation of the face of the work, extending from the ocean to the river. A general advance was now made, and the fort occupied without opposition.

The conduct of the officers and men of this division was most gallant.

Aided by the fire of the Navy and an attacking column of sailors and marines along the sea beach, we were able to press over the open ground in front of the fort through the gaps of the palisading in the ditch made by the naval fire, and finally to carry the work.

The name of every officer and man engaged in this desperate conflict should be mentioned; but I shall at present only be able to give you a few of the most conspicuous. It is to be hoped they all may be properly rewarded.

Brevet Brigadier-General N. M. Curtis, commanding First brigade, was prominent throughout the day for his bravery, coolness and judgment. His services cannot be overestimated. He fell a short time before dark, seriously wounded in the head by a canister shot.

Colonel G. A. Pennyacker, commanding Second brigade, was seriously wounded when in the ditch of the work. This officer was surpassed by none, and his absence during the day was most deeply felt and seriously regretted.

Colonel L. B. Bell, commanding Third brigade, was mortally wounded while crossing the bridge in advance of the palisading. He was an able and efficient officer, and not easily replaced.

I here submit the names of the regimental commanders, and to them, in connection with the brigade commanders, is the credit due for the heroic conduct of their men.

Regimental Commanders First Brigade—One Hundred and Forty-second New York Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Burney; One Hundred and Seventeenth New York Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Meyer; One Hundred and Twelfth New York Volunteers, Colonel J. F. Smith; Third New York Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Coan; Seventy-sixth Pennsylvania Volunteers, Colonel J. S. Little; Forty-seventh New York Volunteers, Colonel J. M. McDonald; Two Hundred and Third Pennsylvania Volunteers, Colonel J. W. Moore; Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, First Lieutenant J. Wainwright. Third Brigade—One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York Volunteers, Colonel Alonzo Alden; Thirteenth Indiana Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel S. M. Zent; Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, Captain J. H. Roberts; One Hundred and Fifteenth New York Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel N. J. Johnson; Colonel J. W. Moore, Two Hundred and Third Pennsylvania Volunteers, bearded with the most distinguished gallantry. He was killed within the fort, in advance of his regiment. Few equal, none surpass this brave officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel S. M. Zent, in command of the Thirteenth Indiana, with his own regiment and a detachment of volunteers from the First brigade, numbering in all one hundred men, deployed within two or three hundred yards of the fort, and by their fire materially aided our advance.

Major J. B. Lawrence, Thirteenth Indiana volunteers, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Colvin, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York volunteers, also behaved in the most gallant manner, and rendered efficient service in collecting and organizing the troops which had become separated from their commands in the charge, and in leading them to positions where important advantages were gained. Captain G. W. Hunkins, Fourth New Hampshire volunteers, and First Lieutenant J. König, Seventy-sixth Pennsylvania volunteers, aided on the staff of Colonel L. Bell, commanding Third brigade, were untiring in their labors, and rendered valuable services in the absence of my staff officers, who had been stricken down in the early part of the engagement.

Privates Arrie Chapin, James Spring, Company G, One Hundred and Forty-second New York volunteers, and D. C. Hotchkiss, Company A; O. B. Kingsland, Company D, One Hundred and Twelfth New York volunteers, volunteered to approach to a point considerably in advance of our skirmish line, which they did do, and by this step, valuable information with reference to the ditch was gained. Privates James Cadman, wounded; Wm. Cobe, Company B; George Hoyt, S. R. Porteus, Company C; D. H. Morgan, Edward Pettie, Company E; E. H. Cooper, Company G, wounded; Elias Baker, Company H, missing; Geo. Merrill, W. J. McNeil, Company I; Z. C. Neahd, Bruce Anderson, Company K, all of the One Hundred and Forty-second New York volunteers, volunteered to advance with the head of the column and cut down the palisading.

Copies of the reports of the brigade commanders will be forwarded. In them will be found lists of officers and men who particularly distinguished themselves.

It is recommended that medals be bestowed upon all enlisted men mentioned.

To my staff officers am I particularly indebted for their zeal and gallantry throughout the day. They were constantly passing to and fro, and exposed to the hottest fire. I would respectfully recommend that they be brevetted for their services. Captains Charles A. Carleton, Assistant Adjutant-General; Captain A. G. Lawrence, Acting Aide-de-Camp; Captain H. C. Lockwood, Aide-de-Camp; Captain R. W. Dawson, Assistant Inspector-General; Captain J. S. Mathews, Provost-Marshal; Captain B. E. Keeler, Mustering Officer.

Captain Lawrence was the first man through the palisading, and while extending his hand to receive a guidon, which he intended to place on the parapet of the work, a shell exploded near him, taking off his left arm and seriously injuring his throat; he was afterwards shot in his right arm. For his services on this occasion, as well as on a former one, I most earnestly urge his promotion. Captain Dawson was disabled by a wound in his left arm. To Captain Lockwood, General Whiting and Colonel Lamb surrendered, with the garrison, at Fort Buchanan.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. AMES, Brigadier-General of Volunteers.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, FLAGSHIP MALVERN, N. C., January 16, 1865.

Sir—I wrote you yesterday. We have all the fort. The Army have captured 1,500 men and a large number of officers, including General Whiting and Colonel Lamb.

The gunboats are now in the river, and Wilmington is hermetically sealed against blockade runners.

The Rebels have destroyed the works on Smith's Island, and if they don't destroy Fort Caswell, it is of no use to them. We will get that after a little while. You must not expect too much of us at one time.

These works are tremendous. I was in Fort Malakoff a few days after its surrender to the French and British. The combined arms of those two nations were many months capturing that stronghold, and it won't compare either in size or strength to Fort Fisher. The fort contained 75 guns, and many of them were heavy ones.

I have not yet learned what our casualties are in killed and wounded, but I think 300 will cover them all. We had a bad explosion in the fort this morning, which killed and wounded a number of men—about one hundred. Some of our seamen were blown up, and Acting Assistant Paymaster R. H. Gillett, of the *Gettysburg*, was killed.

I will send a detailed report as soon as I can get off the wounded, and arrange matters generally. The world never saw such fighting as our soldiers did.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

OFFICIAL DISPATCH FROM MR. STANTON.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, January 24, 1865.

Major-General Dix, New York:

The following telegram has been received by this Department from Lieutenant-General Grant.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

GENERAL GRANT TO SECRETARY STANTON.

CITY POINT, VA., January 23, 1865.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War:

One of my staff has just returned from Fort Fisher with dispatches from General Terry, from which I extract the following:

On the 16th the enemy blew up Forts Caswell and Campbell, and abandoned them and the works on Smith's Island, and those at Smithville and Reeves' Point. These places were occupied by the Navy. The whole number of guns captured amounts to one hundred and sixty-two. A large number of small arms also fell into our hands, besides quantities of ordnance and commissary stores. Our casualties prove smaller than at first reported. They foot up thus—Twelve officers and one hundred and seven men killed; forty-five officers and four hundred and ninety men wounded.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.

LIST OF OFFICERS KILLED AND WOUNDED DURING THE ATTACK UPON FORT FISHER.

KILLED IN THE ASSAULT.

Lieutenant S. W. Preston, Flag-Lieutenant.
Lieutenant S. H. Porter, commanding flag-ship *Malvern*.
Assistant Surgeon William Longshaw, of the *Minnesota*.
Acting Ensign Robert Riley, of the *Montgomery*.

KILLED BY EXPLOSION OF MAGAZINE IN FORT FISHER, JANUARY 16.

Acting Assistant Paymaster R. H. Gillett, of the *Gettysburg*.
Acting Ensign J. S. Leighton, of the *Gettysburg*.

WOUNDED IN THE ASSAULT.

Lieutenant-Commander W. N. Allen, of the *Tuscarora*.
Lieutenant G. M. Bache, of the *Powhatan*.
Lieutenant R. H. Lamson, commanding the *Gettysburg*.
Acting Volunteer Lieutenant F. F. Baury, of the *Colorado*.
Ensign R. D. Evans, of the *Powhatan*.
Ensign Ira Harris, of the *Powhatan*.
Acting Ensign L. B. Chester, of the *Pontoon*.
Acting Ensign James Bertwistle, of the *Minnesota*.
Acting Ensign F. A. O'Connor, of the *Minnesota*.
Acting Ensign G. W. Coffin, of the *Gettysburg*.
Acting Ensign B. Wood, of the *Tristram Shandy*.
Acting Master A. J. Louch, of the *Madagascar*.
Acting Master's Mate E. K. Green, of the *Madagascar*.
Acting Master's Mate J. M. Simms, of the *Minnesota*.
Acting Master's Mate A. F. Aldridge, of the *Tuscarora*.

Total officers killed and wounded, 21.

The following is the number of killed, wounded and missing in the attack upon Fort Fisher, including the explosion of the magazines:

	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
Flag-ship Malvern	3	1	..
Saugus	..	1	..
Pontoon	..	1	..
Kansas	..	1	..
Keokuk	2	12	..
Canonius	..	3	..
Ticonderoga	1	6	..
Iscow	2	12	..
Shenandoah	6	..	6
Tuscarora	3	12	..
Rhode Island	9	2	..
Huron	..	5	..
Montgomery	2	4	..
Monticello	4	4	..
Yatash (incomplete)	..	12	..
Tristram Shandy	..	1	..
Sacramento	3	15	..
Junata	5	10	..
Santiago de Cuba	1	9	..
Fort Jackson	1	10	..
Yantic	2	1	..
Powhatan	3	19	6
Minnesota	13	23	..
Colorado	3	14	8
Nereus	3	3	..
Pequot	3	5	..
Gettysburg	6	6	..
MacKinnaw	..	12	..
Mohican
Total	74	213	22

Total killed, wounded and missing, 309.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF FIELD OFFICERS IN THE NEW YORK VOLS.

The following promotions and appointments to be field officers are announced by the Governor of New York:

John H. Edson to be Colonel, 3d regt., December 31, 1864, vice E. G. Floyd, discharged.
Captain Jacob Beeha to be Major, 7th regt., December 31, 1864, vice G. A. Scheel, dismissed.
Captain Sewell Sergeant to be Major 15th regt. (Engineers), November 1, 1864.
Captain William Henderson to be Major, same regt., November 1, 1864.
Captain Samuel Davidson, to be Major 43d regt., September 21, 1864, vice C. A. Milliken, promoted.
Lieutenant-Colonel William B. Coan to be Colonel, 45th regt., December 31, 1864, vice W. B. Barton, mustered out.
Major Nere A. Elfring to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regt., December 31, 1864, vice W. B. Coan, promoted.
Captain Albert F. Miller to be Major, same regt., July 30, 1864, vice N. A. Elfring, promoted.
Captain James H. McDonald to be Major, 50th regt. (Engineers), October 27, 1864, vice O. Beers, mustered out.
Captain William W. Folwell to be Major, same regt., October 15, 1864, vice W. Brainard, promoted Colonel 15th regt. (Engineers).
Captain (U. S. Vols.) Gilbert McKibben to be Colonel, 51st regt., December 9, 1864, vice C. W. Le Gendre, discharged.
1st Lieutenant (2d U. S. Art.) Samuel H. Benjamin to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regt., December 9, 1864, vice Mitchell, resigned.
Major John G. Wright to be Lieutenant Colonel, same regt., December 31, 1864, vice S. H. Benjamin, declined.
Lieut.-Col. Henry N. Karples to be Colonel, 52 regt., November 9, 1864, vice F. Frank, mustered out.
Late Lieutenant-Colonel (57th regt.) James C. Bronson, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regt., December 30 1864, vice H. M. Karples, promoted.

James A. Jewell to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 59th regt., December 7, 1864, vice H. P. Rugg, dismissed.

Michael H. Donovan to be Major, same regt., December 17, 1864, vice William A. McFadden.

Captain (51st regt.) George W. Schaffer to be Major, 51st regt., December 18, 1864, vice R. A. Brown, promoted.

1st Lieutenant Theodore Tyrer to be Major, 64th regt., December 9, 1864, vice Hunt, declined.

John Garrett to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 69th regiment, December 20, 1864, vice J. E. McGee, mustered out.

Lieutenant-Colonel Michael W. Burns to be Colonel, 73d regiment, October 27, 1864, vice W. R. Brewster, mustered out.

Captain James McKenna to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, December 18, 1864, vice M. W. Burns, promoted.

A. C. M. (19th A. C.) N. P. York to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 75th regiment, December 19, 1864, vice W. Babcock, died of wounds received in action.

Captain Charles A. Watkins to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 76th regiment, October 17, 1864, vice J. E. Cook, mustered out.

Major David J. Caw to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 77th regiment, December 13, 1864, vice N. S. Babcock, mustered out.

Captain David J. Caw to be Major, same regiment, November 19, 1864, vice N. S. Babcock, promoted.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob B. Hardnbergh, to be Colonel, 80th regiment, November 22, 1864, vice Theodore B. Gates, mustered out.

Captain John McKenney to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, November 22, 1864, vice Jacob B. Hardnbergh, promoted.

Captain John H. Leslie to be Major, same regiment, November 12, 1864, vice Walter A. Van Rensselaer, mustered out.

Captain Edward A. Stinson to be Major, 81st regiment, December 7, 1864, vice D. B. White, term expired.

Major Nathan H. Vincent to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 86th regiment, December 2, 1864, vice M. B. Stafford, died of wounds received in action.

Captain (31st Vol.) Frederick Van Tine to be Major, same regiment, December 9, 1864, vice N. H. Vincent, promoted.

Captain John Smith to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 88th regiment, November 15, 1864, vice D. P. Burke, promoted.

Major Samuel McConihe, to be Colonel, 93d regiment, September 7, 1864, vice J. S. Crocker, discharged.

Captain Henry P. Smith to be Major, same regiment, December 24, 1864, vice McConihe, promoted.

Captain Henry M. Jennings to be Major, 95th regiment, December 20, 1864, vice ————, term expired.

Captain Samuel O. Timpon to be Major, same regiment, December 24, 1864, vice H. M. Jennings, declined.

Captain James H. Dandy to be Major, 100th regiment, December 9, 1864, vice D. D. Nash, discharged.

Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew N. McDonald to be Colonel, 106th regiment, December 20, 1864, vice L. T. Barney, declined.

Major Henry C. Allen to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, vice A. N. McDonald, promoted.

Captain (162d regiment) William P. Huxford to be Major, same regiment, December 24, 1864, vice H. C. Allen, promoted.

Captain William H. Andrews to be Major, 103th regiment, August 7, 1864, vice H. S. Hogeboom, discharged.

Major E. A. Ludwick to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 112th regiment, November 23, 1864, vice W. A. Chadwick, discharged.

Brevet Captain Lewis G. Bartlett to be Major, 121st regiment, December 24, 1864, vice H. M. Galpin, promoted.

Captain Alonzo H. Clapp to be Major, November 7, 1864, vice ————, killed.

Lieutenant-Colonel James C. Rogers to be Colonel, 123d regiment, November 19, 1864, vice A. Stevens, appointed Colonel of 176th regiment.

Major Adolphus H. Tanner to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, November 19, 1864, vice J. C. Rogers, promoted.

Captain Henry Gray to be Major, same regiment, November 19, 1864, vice A. H. Tanner, promoted.

Ambrose S. Cassidy to be Colonel, 126th regiment, December 2, 1864, vice Levi Crandall, resigned.

Captain Nelson Penfield to be Major, same regiment, December 31, 1864, vice J. Egolf, not mustered.

Captain John B. Geddes to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 128th regiment, June 17, 1864, vice J. S. Brown, promoted.

Major Anthony J. Allaire to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 133d regiment, November 20, 1864, vice J. Hopkins, deceased.

Captain George Washburn to be Major, same regiment, November 20, 1864, vice A. J. Allaire, promoted.

Major James Grindley to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 146th regiment, December 1, 1864, vice H. H. Curran, killed in action.

Captain Peter Chaeques to be Major, same regiment, December 1, 1864, vice J. Grindley, promoted.

Captain James Cooey to be Major, 147th regiment, October 28, 1864, vice D. Farling, discharged.

Captain Charles Bogardus to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 151st regiment, November 5, 1864, vice F. M. Fay, resigned.

Captain Joseph G. McNutt to be Major, 169th regiment, October 19, 1864, vice Robert McD. Hart, killed in action.

Captain John B. Babcock to be Major, 162 regiment, December 1, 1864, vice F. W. Coleman, discharged.

Captain John B. Gandolfo to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 178th regiment, August 20, 1864, vice C. F. Smith, discharged.

Captain Robert F. Bush to be Major, 185th regiment, December 3, 1864, vice J. Ross, deceased.

Captain (1st U. S. Infantry) John J. Cappinger to be Colonel, 139th regiment, December 31, 1864, vice W. W. Hays, deceased.

Captain Jaynes C. Battersby to be Major, 1st cavalry, October 9, 1864, vice D. H. Maskee, mustered out.

John F. L. V. Dunes to be Major, 2d cavalry, December 23, 1864, vice M. B. Birdseye, promoted.

Captain Samuel C. Pierce to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 3d cavalry, October 17, 1864, vice F. Jacobs, Jr., mustered out.

Captain John Kbbe to be Major, same regiment, October 10, 1864, vice N. Hall, mustered out.

First Lieutenant (U. S. Art'y) Charles L. Fitzhugh to be Colonel, 6th cavalry, December 24, 1864, vice T. C. Devine, promoted Brigadier-General.

Captain Hartwell B. Compton to be Major, 8th cavalry, November 20, 1864, vice A. L. Ford, mustered out.

Captain Collins Chesebrough to be Major, 14th cavalry, August 10, 1864, vice A. Bassford, promoted.

Captain John F. Porter, Jr., to be Major, 18th cavalry, December 27, 1864, vice A. A. Pitcher, discharged.

Major John Tracey, Jr., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, November 25, 1864, vice S. W. Stryker, dismissed.

B. L. Power to be Major, same regiment, December 28, 1864, vice J. Tracey, Jr., promoted.

Captain (2d cavalry) Charles F. Willard to be Major, 25th cavalry, December 24, 1864, vice J. P. L. V. Dunes, declined.

Captain Edward A. Selkirk to be Major, 24 artillery, December 19, 1864, vice G. Dawson, died of wounds.

Captain Oscar F. Hulser to be Major, same regiment, October 20, 1864, vice T. J. Clarke, declined.

Major George Hogg to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, December 7, 1864, vice J. Palmer, mustered out.

Captain Edward F. Gould to be Major, 4th artillery, November 5, 1864, vice T. D. Sears, discharged.

George C. Kibbe to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 6th artillery, December 1, 1864, vice E. B. Williston, declined.

Captain (1st U. S. Art.) Richard C. Duryea to be Colonel, 7th artillery, December 25, 1864, vice E. A. Springstead, killed in action.

Captain Henry M. Starr to be Major, 8th artillery, November 5, 1864, vice E. M. Spaulding, discharged.

Lieutenant-Colonel James W. Snyder to be Colonel, 9th artillery, November 28, 1864, vice E. P. Taft, discharged.

Major William Wood to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, November 28, 1864, vice J. W. Snyder, promoted.

Lieutenant-Colonel John S. Platter to be Colonel, 1st veteran cavalry, December 3, 1864, vice R. F. Taylor, dismissed.

Major Charles H. Wells to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, December 3, 1864, vice J. S. Platter, promoted.

Captain J. M. Galton to be Major, same regiment, December 1, 1864, vice J. E. Williams, dismissed.

James N. Raymond to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 2d mounted rifles, August 31, 1864, vice Jasper N. Raymond, honorably discharged.

Louis Siebert to be Colonel, same regiment, December 31, 1864, vice J. Fisk, discharged.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas J. Thorp to be Colonel, 1st dragoons, December 17, 1864, vice A. Gibbs, promoted Brigadier-General.

Major Rufus Scott to be Lieutenant-Colonel, same regiment, December 17, 1864, vice T. J. Thorp, promoted.

Captain Jacob W. Knapp to be Major, same regiment, December 17, 1864, vice R. Scott, promoted.

A list of recent donations to the Christian Commission includes the sum of \$3,351, from the Portsmouth Navy Yard.

ARMY GAZETTE.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

C. A. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War, to be Assistant Secretary of War, in place of F. H. Watson, resigned.

R. C. Rutherford, of Illinois, to be Assistant Quartermaster, with the rank of Captain, in the volunteer force.

Francis W. Noblett, to be Assistant Adjutant-General, with the rank of Captain, in the volunteer force.

SHERMAN'S CONGRATULATORY ORDER TO HIS ARMY.

HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
IN THE FIELD, SAVANNAH, GA.,
January 8.

Special Field Orders No. 6.

The General commanding announces to the troops composing the Military Division of the Mississippi, that he has received from the President of the United States and from Lieutenant-General Grant, letters conveying the high sense and appreciation of the campaign just closed, resulting in the capture of Savannah and the defeat of Hood's army in Tennessee.

In order that all may understand the importance of events, it is proper to revert to the situation of affairs in September last. We held Atlanta, a city of little value to us, but so important to the enemy that Mr. Davis, the head of the rebellious faction in the South, visited his army near Palmetto, and commanded it to regain it, as well as to ruin and destroy us by a series of measures which he thought would be effectual.

That army, by rapid march, first gained our railroad near Big Shanty, and afterward about Dalton. We pursued, but it marched so rapidly that we could not overtake it, and General Hood led his army successfully far toward Mississippi, in hopes to decoy us out of Georgia. But we were not then to be led away by him, and purposed to control and lead events ourselves. Generals Thomas and Schofield, commanding the department to our rear, returned to their posts, and prepared to decoy General Hood into their meshes, while we came on to complete our original journey.

We quietly and deliberately destroyed Atlanta and all the railroads which the enemy had used to carry on war against us; occupied his State capital, and then captured his commercial capital, which had been so strongly fortified from the sea as to defy approach from that quarter.

Almost at the moment of our victorious entry into Savannah came the welcome and expected news that our comrades in Tennessee had also fulfilled, nobly and well, their part; had decoyed General Hood to Nashville, and then turned on him, defeating his army thoroughly, capturing all his artillery, great numbers of prisoners, and were still pursuing the fragments down into Alabama. So complete a success in military operations, extending over half a continent, is an achievement that entitles it to a place in the military history of the world.

The armies serving in Georgia and Tennessee, as well as the local garrisons of Decatur, Bridgeport, Chattanooga, and Murfreesboro, are alike entitled to the common honor, and each regiment may inscribe on its colors at pleasure the words "Savannah" or "Nashville."

The General commanding embraces in the same general success the operations of the cavalry column, under Generals Stoneman, Burbridge and Gillem, that penetrated into Southwestern Virginia, and paralyzed the efforts of the enemy to disturb the peace and safety of the people of East Tennessee. Instead of being put on the defensive, we have, at all points, assumed the bold offensive, and completely thwarted the designs of the enemies of our country.

By order of
Major-General W. T. SHERMAN.

REGULATIONS BY GENERAL SHERMAN.

HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
IN THE FIELD, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA,
January 14.

It being represented that the Confederate army and armed bands of robbers, acting professedly under the authority of the Confederate government, are harassing the people of Georgia and endeavoring to intimidate them in the efforts they are making to secure to themselves provisions, clothing, security to life and property, and the restoration of law and good government in the State, it is hereby ordered and made public:

First. That the farmers of Georgia may bring into Savannah, Fernandina or Jacksonville, Fla., marketing, such as beef, pork, mutton, vegetables of any kind, fish, &c., as well as cotton in small quantities, and sell the same in open market, except the cotton, which must be sold by or through the Treasury agents, and may invest the proceeds in family stores, such as bacon and flour, in any other reasonable quantities; groceries, shoes and clothing, and articles not contraband of war, and carry the same back to their families. No trade store will be attempted in the interior, or stocks of goods sold for them, but families may club together for mutual assistance and protection in coming and going.

Second. The people are encouraged to meet together in peaceful assemblies to discuss measures looking to their safety and good government, and the restoration of State and national authority, and will be protected by the National Army, when so doing; and all peaceable inhabitants who satisfy the commanding officers that they are earnestly laboring to that end, must not only be left undisturbed in property and person, but must be protected as far as possible consistent with the military operations. If any farmer or peaceable inhabitant is molested by the enemy—viz., the Confederate army of guerrillas—because of his friendship to the National Government, the perpetrator, if caught, will be summarily punished, or his family made to suffer for the outrage; but if the crime cannot be traced to the actual party, then retaliation will be made on the adherents to the cause of the Rebellion. Should a Union man be murdered, then a Rebel selected by lot will be shot; or if a Union family be persecuted on account of the cause, a Rebel family will be banished to a foreign land. In aggravated cases, retaliation will extend as high as five for one. All commanding officers will act promptly in such cases, and report their action after the retaliation is done. By order of
Major-General W. T. SHERMAN.

CONGRATULATION FOR FORT FISHER.

STEAMER S. R. SPAULDING,
OFF FORT FISHER, January 16, 1865.

To Major-General TERRY and Rear-Admiral PORTER, Commanding, &c.:

The Secretary of War has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the rebel flag of Fort Fisher, and in the name of the President of the United States congratulates you and the gallant officers and soldiers, sailors and marines of your commands, and tenders you thanks for the valor and skill displayed in your respective parts of the great achievements in the operations against Fort Fisher and in its assault and capture. The combined operations of the squadron and land forces of your commands deserve and will receive the thanks of the Nation, and will be held in admiration throughout the world as a proof of the naval and military prowess of the United States.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

THE FOURTH CORPS AT THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE.

HEADQUARTERS, FOURTH ARMY CORPS,
HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Jan. 6, 1865.

To the Officers and Soldiers of the Fourth Army Corps:

You have received the commendation of his Excellency, the President of the United States, for your glorious deeds in the various conflicts around Nashville on the 15th and 16th ult. You have also received the commendation of the Commanding General of the forces engaged in those conflicts, not only for your splendid achievements on the field of battle, but for your cheerful endurance of privations and hardships, in the most inclement weather, during the long and vigorous pursuit which followed the rout of the enemy in the vicinity of Nashville.

As your actual commander on the field and in the pursuit I desire to add my commendation to the high encomiums you have already received, and to tender you my grateful thanks for your soldierly conduct, both on the field of battle and in the trying pursuit.

Without flattery, at the command of your officers, you repeatedly assaulted the enemy's strongly entrenched positions and drove him from them in confusion and dismay. When he was utterly

routed and no longer durst confront you in battle, you at once commenced the most vigorous pursuit, continued it more than a hundred miles at the most inclement season of the year, over the most miserable roads and across deep and difficult streams, which were passed by your labor alone, and until the enemy was driven in utter disorganization across the Tennessee River.

The substantial fruits of these glorious deeds were twenty-four pieces of artillery, five caissons, several stands of colors, many thousand stands of small arms and two thousand four hundred and eighty-six prisoners. Such noble services entitle you to the lasting gratitude of the Nation. Fortunately this great success was achieved with comparatively slight loss to the corps. Seven hundred and fifty killed and wounded will cover the entire casualties of the corps in the two days conflict.

To the friends of the gallant dead and to the wounded—and I am sure you will join me in this tribute of comradeship, I offer my sincere sympathy and condolence.

T. J. Wood, Brigadier-General Vol.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENTS.

The following officers, having been reported at the headquarters of the Army for the offenses hereinafter specified, are hereby notified that they will stand disarmed the service of the United States unless within fifteen (15) days from Jan. 23, 1865, they appear before the Military Commission in session in Washington, D. C., of which Brigadier General John C. Caldwell, United States Volunteers, is President, and make satisfactory defence to the charges against them:

For making requisitions for fuel, with intention of selling the same, thereby attempting fraud upon the Government.

Captain William B. Snell, 13th Maine Volunteers.

Disobedience of orders and absence without leave.

First Lieutenant Alexander Anna, Quartermaster 103d New York Volunteers.

Absence without leave.

Second Lieutenant James E. C. Covell, 16th Iowa Volunteers.

Second Lieutenant Harry W. Lee, 16th Iowa Volunteers.

First Lieutenant James J. Bumpas, 21st Ohio Volunteers.

Captain Albert M. Green, 6th Kentucky Cavalry.

First Lieutenant Christopher T. Bybee, 6th Kentucky Cavalry.

First Lieutenant Erasmus C. Root, 2d New York Heavy Artillery.

Second Lieutenant Michael H. Kenneally, 63d New York Volunteers.

First Lieutenant Alexander Gray, 157th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

First Lieutenant Washington A. Hantley, 9th United States Colored Troops.

Surgeon William Upjohn, 7th Michigan Cavalry.

First Lieutenant George W. McCormick, 7th Michigan Cavalry.

Second Lieutenant Samuel S. Simond, 36th United States Colored Troops.

TO BE RECOMMENDED FOR DISMISSAL.

The following named officers, having been reported to the headquarters of the Army for the offenses hereinafter specified, are hereby notified that unless, within (15) fifteen days from Jan. 23, 1865, they appear before the Military Commission in session in Washington, D. C., of which Brigadier-General Caldwell, United States Volunteers, is President, and make satisfactory defence to the charges against them, they will be recommended for dismissal from the service of the United States:

Absence without leave.

First Lieutenant John Simons, 4th United States Infantry.

First Lieutenant Jacob L. Slough, 12th United States Infantry.

EXEMPT FROM DISMISSAL.

The following named officers, charged with offences, and heretofore published, are exempt from being dismissed the service of the United States, the Military Commission instituted by special orders No. 53, series of 1863, from the War Department, having reported that satisfactory defence has been made in their respective cases, viz.:

Colonel William T. Lynch, 58th Illinois Volunteers.

Chaplain Samuel Day, 8th Illinois Volunteers.

Surgeon Charles E. Cady, 133th Pennsylvania Volunteers, charged with offences, and heretofore published, is exempt from being dismissed the service of the United States, he having made satisfactory defence before a board of officers, convened by General Orders No. 33, November 16, 1864, from headquarters 6th Army Corps.

DISMISSALS CONFIRMED.

The orders of dismissals heretofore issued in the following cases have been confirmed:

Major William S. Burnett, 8th Tennessee Volunteers, to date June 6, 1864, "with loss of all pay and emoluments," for absence without authority.

Captain David S. Aberdeen, 3d New York Artillery, to date December 22, 1864, "for having been disgracefully drunk while on duty as general officer of the day in the streets of Newbern."

First Lieutenant William P. Mount, 79th Indiana Volunteers, to date December 15, 1864, for "tendering his resignation for incompetency, when his commanding officer certifies that such incompetency is the result of willful neglect of duty."

First Lieutenant James B. Fogle, 14th West Virginia Volunteers, to date January 3, 1865, for "utter worthlessness as an officer, drunkenness, and publicly exposing himself while in a state of beastly intoxication in the presence of commissioned officers, enlisted men, and citizens, in the public office of the 'Revere House,' at Cumberland, Maryland."

First Lieutenant Alfred E. Chaffee, 13th Wisconsin Battery, to date December 28, 1864, "for gross drunkenness, for playing cards with enlisted men in a public bar-room, and for using obscene and insubordinate language concerning his commanding officer in the presence of the enlisted men of the battery."

Second Lieutenant William A. Tefft, 3d Rhode Island Cavalry, to date December 21, 1864, for "gross misconduct and violation of military orders, he having while on a scout allowed himself and detachment of thirteen men to be surprised and taken prisoners, from want of proper vigilance and precaution."

DISMISSALS REVOKED.

The order of dismissal heretofore issued in the case of Second Lieutenant P. J. Champion, Veteran Reserve Corps, has been revoked.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Gunner Elijah Haskell, to the Naval Station, Mound City, Ill.

Lieutenant G. K. Haswell, to temporary duty at Naval Rendezvous, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Lieutenant-Commander John Madigan, to temporary ordnance duty at Boston Yard.

Boatswain Paul Atkinson, to the Wachusett.

DETACHED.

Captain A. K. Long, from the Court in session at Boston, on the reporting of his relief.

Second Assistant Engineer H. Minsner, from the Monticello, and ordered to report to Rear-Admiral Gregory.

Commander E. W. Carpenter, from duty as member of Court-Martial and also as Prize Commissioner at Key West, Fla.

Captain Wm. Rogers Taylor, from command of the Juniate, and granted sick leave.

Commander M. C. Main, from ordnance duty at Boston, and ordered to duty as member of Court-Martial.

Carpenter Daniel Jones, from the St. Louis, and ordered North.

Gunner G. P. Cushman, from the St. Louis, and ordered North.

Sailmaker Samuel Tatem, from the Constellation, and waiting orders.

Assistant Surgeon Stephen J. Clark, from the Constellation, and waiting orders.

Captain H. S. Stellwagen, from the command of the Constellation, and waiting orders.

Carpenter H. R. Philbrick, from the Constellation, and waiting orders.

Paymaster H. H. Fangborn, from the *Constellation*, and settling accounts.
Gunner John B. Grainger, from the *Constellation*, and waiting orders.
Surgeon John B. Messersmith, from the *Constellation*, and waiting orders.
Lieutenant Sylvanus Backus from the *Constellation*, and waiting orders.
Commander Edward Donaldson, from ordnance duty at Boston, and ordered to command the receiving ship *Constellation* at Norfolk, Va.
Boatswain Joseph Lewis, from the *Wachusett*, and granted sick leave.

RESIGNED.

Assistant Surgeon William Longshaw, Jr., of the *Minnesota*.
Second Assistant Engineer T. C. Brecht.
Ensign R. P. Huntington.
Midshipman Charles C. Eames.
Third Assistant Engineer D. M. Egbert, of the *Chicopee*.

REVOKED.

Midshipman Zachary T. Cole.

VOLUNTEER NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander Pierre Girard, to command the *Huntsville*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster Theodore Barker, to the *Maratona*.
Acting First Assistant Engineer David Frazer, to the *De Solo*.
Acting Second Assistant Engineer Frederick D. Stuart, Jr., to the *De Solo*.
Acting Ensign J. W. Almy, to the *Chimo*.
Acting Ensign O. F. Knowles, to the *National Guard*.
Acting Assistant Surgeon Louis Michael, to the *Neptune*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster K. M. Hart, to the *St. Marys*.
Acting Third Assistant Engineers Charles Hickey, Benjamin F. Teal, William P. Ellis and David J. Lanahan, to the *Annie*.
Acting Master William F. North, to the *Constellation*.
Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Benjamin W. Loring, to the *North Carolina*.
Acting Master J. R. Wheeler, to command the *Annie*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster Charles P. Thompson, to report for special duty in the Navy Department.
Acting Assistant Paymaster Charles W. Crary, to the *Dunbarton*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster C. M. Case, Jr., to the *Casco*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster Rufus McConnell, to instruction at New York.
Acting Assistant Paymaster Charles C. Ward, to the *Flambeau*.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer Thomas Looby, to the *Squadro*.
Acting Master's Mates Charles P. Weston and W. O. Howard, to the *Sea Foam*.

DETACHED.

Acting Volunteer Lieutenants E. H. Faneon, T. A. Harris, and Francis B. Welles, from the North Atlantic Squadron, and ordered to the Mississippi Squadron.
Acting Assistant Surgeon George C. Reynolds, from the (late) *Otego*, and waiting orders.
Acting Assistant Surgeon George W. Hatch, from the *Spiraea*, and waiting orders.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer William H. Woodward, from the *Saco*, and ordered to experimental duty at the Washington Navy Yard.
Acting Ensign Edward Ryan, from the *Para*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.
Acting Ensign Henry D. Whitmore, from the *Savannah*, and ordered to the *Calypso*.
Acting Masters Abram Allen, A. W. Kempton and E. B. Mallett, from the *Constellation*, and waiting orders.
Acting Ensigns E. H. Miller and George H. Drew, from the *Constellation*, and waiting orders.
Acting Ensigns W. H. McLean and H. D. Foster, from the (late) *Otego*, and granted leave, on the expiration of which they will report for duty on board the *Constellation*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster John Macmahon, from the *Napa*, on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer William J. Barron, from the *Saco*, and waiting orders.
Acting Second Assistant Engineer James A. Cronthiers, from the *Saco*, and ordered to the *Chenango*.
Acting Second Assistant Engineer John P. Cloyd, from the *Saco*, and ordered to the *Annie*.
Acting Assistant Surgeon William S. Bowen, from the *Ohio*, and ordered to the *J. L. Davis*.
Acting Ensigns William H. Potter and A. H. Ostrander, from the *Saco*, and ordered to the Potomac Flotilla.
Acting Ensign O. F. Nixon, from the *Saco*, and ordered to the *Mohican*.
Acting Master W. F. Hunt, from the *Saco*, and ordered to the *Annie*.
Acting Ensign A. D. Stover, from the *Savannah*, and ordered to the *Annie*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster Charles H. Hill, from the *Saco*, and settling his accounts.
Acting Ensign Charles E. Rich, from the *Entaw*, and ordered to the *Constellation*.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer George Bertram, from the *Chenango*, and ordered to the *Squadro*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster J. W. Holmes, from the *Dunbarton*, and settling his accounts.
Acting Assistant Paymaster F. N. D. Horton, from the *Flambeau*, and settling his accounts.
Acting Master's Mates Stephen Jones, P. M. Ryder, George H. Fletcher and M. H. Wilson, from the *Constellation*, and waiting orders.
Acting Volunteer Lieutenants Thomas E. Smith and Henry A. Goringe, from the Mississippi Squadron, on the reporting of relief, and ordered to the North Atlantic Squadron.

APPOINTED.

J. Bayard Redfield, Acting Assistant Paymaster, and waiting orders.
Thomas Brown and G. L. Sands, Acting Ensigns, and ordered to the North Atlantic Squadron.
G. H. Dexter, Acting Ensign, and ordered to the East Gulf Squadron.
James W. Hanson and Thaddeus Bell, Acting Assistant Paymasters, and waiting orders.
Samuel A. Livingston, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the East Gulf Squadron.
Charles A. Manson, Acting Assistant Surgeon and ordered to the *Ohio*.
Theodore C. Brecht, Acting First Assistant Engineer and ordered to remain attached to the Bureau of Steam Engineering.
John E. P. Atkins, Acting Ensign, and ordered to the *Savannah*.
George F. Brickett, Acting Assistant Surgeon, and ordered to the *Ohio*.
Charles A. McDaniel, Charles P. Tompson and L. G. Morrow, Acting Assistant Paymasters, and waiting orders.
Granville B. Le Compté, Acting Assistant Surgeon, and ordered to the *Kanawha*.
Robert H. Mansfield, Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Annie*.
H. Trumbull Stanolf and Lewis F. Whitin, Acting Assistant Paymasters, and waiting orders.
Leander P. Woodbury, Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Constellation*.
Henry B. Goodwin, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the South Atlantic Squadron.
E. P. Sheldon and Matthew T. Trumbour, Acting Assistant Paymasters, and waiting orders.

CONFIRMED.

Acting Master and Pilot John A. Wilson, of the North Atlantic Squadron.
Acting Ensigns and Pilots John Brown and Samuel Weskett, of the North Atlantic Squadron.
Acting Ensign Charles W. Richardson, and ordered to instruction in gunnery at New York.
Acting Ensigns L. Granville Sampson and Allen W. Snow, and ordered to instruction in gunnery at New York.

Acting Ensigns George W. Beverly and G. H. Barry, and ordered to the *Savannah* for instruction.
Acting Master's Mate E. F. Crawford, and ordered to instruction at New York.
Acting Master's Mate G. T. Hohn, and ordered to the East Gulf Squadron.
Acting Master's Mate Anthony T. Jennings, and ordered to instruction at New York.

RESIGNED.

Acting Master's Mate E. D. W. Parsons, of the *North Carolina*.
Acting Gunner A. P. Snyder.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer William H. Brown, of the *Key-stone State*.
Acting Ensign Thomas S. Russell.
Acting Master and Pilot William Reed, of the *Philadelphia*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster G. H. Noyes, of the *Maratona*, to take effect on the reporting of his relief.
Acting Assistant Surgeon William H. Taggart.
Acting Assistant Paymaster James Garnett, of the *St. Marys*, to take effect on the reporting of his relief.
Acting Assistant Surgeon Franklin W. Brigham, of the *Kanawha*.
Acting Assistant Surgeon J. F. A. Adams, of the *G. L. Davis*.
Acting Ensign William Symonds.

PROMOTED.

Acting Ensign Abraham Rich, of the *Elk*, to Acting Master.
Acting Ensign F. A. Miller, of the *Princess Royal*, to Acting Master.

ORDERS REVOKED.

Acting Assistant Paymaster H. T. B. Harris, to the *Naubuc*, and ordered to the *Napa*.

APPOINTMENTS REVOKED.

Acting Ensign George Galry, of the *New Hampshire*.
Acting First Assistant Engineer T. M. Mitchell.
Acting Second Assistant Engineer, John W. Reed, of the *Mac-taw*.
Acting Ensign Benjamin F. Macintire.

DISMISSED.

Acting Assistant Paymaster A. B. Thornton, of the *North Carolina*.
Acting Master Enos O. Adams, of the South Atlantic Squadron.

LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, during the week ending January 21, 1865:

John Wilson, Seaman, December 2, 1864, U. S. steamer *Commodore McDonough*.
Adam Bigg, Landsman, December 12, 1864, U. S. steamer *Pampero*.
William B. McMichael, Acting Master's Mate, December 15, 1864, U. S. steamer *Portsmouth*.
James Woods, Seaman, December 27, 1864, U. S. sloop *Vincennes*.
Francis Rowe, Captain of Hold, January 1, 1865, U. S. bark *Restless*.
William T. Wiley, Landsman, January 5, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.
John Ferguson, Seaman, January 12, 1865, Naval Hospital, Chelsea.
Samuel Jackson, Landsman, January 13, 1865, Naval Asylum.
Michael Higgins, First Class Boy, December 13, 1864, U. S. steamer *Carrabazet*.
James Robinson, (colored), First Class Boy, January 10, 1865, Naval Hospital, Norfolk.
Kent D. Davis, Second Lieutenant Marine Corps, January 11, 1865, Washington City.
Thomas Nelson, Seaman, January 9, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.
John Barker, Landsman, January 10, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.
Daniel S. Smith, Seaman, January 12, 1865, Naval Hospital, Norfolk.
Harvey L. Ranson, Acting Ensign, January 14, 1865, Kingston.
Oscar Bailey, Captain of Hold, December 21, 1864, U. S. brig *Sea Foam*.
John Wilkey, (colored), Cook, December 23, 1864, New York.
Richard Lee, (colored), Landsman, December 20, 1864, U. S. steamer *Young Rover*.
John Haynes, (colored), Seaman, December 22, 1864, General Hospital for the insane, Washington City.
Charles Franklin, Ordinary Seaman, January 14, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.
Prince Martin, Contraband, Boy, January 2, 1865, U. S. steamer *Merrimac*.
John H. Carr, Quartermaster, January 3, 1865, U. S. sloop *Mac-donough*.
Charles Marvinne, Landsman, January 16, 1865, U. S. steamer *Powhatan*.
Barley Jones, (colored), Landsman, January 16, 1865, Naval Hospital, Chelsea.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

ASSIGNMENTS.

Surgeon E. H. Abadie, to duty in examining the working of the medical service of the Department of Arkansas.
Surgeon John N. Randolph, U. S. A., to duty as Medical Director, Department of the Missouri, relieving Colonel Madison Mills, Medical Inspector-General.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

Surgeon William Dickinson, U. S. Volunteers.

VARIOUS NAVAL MATTERS.

The screw frigate *Niagara*, 15, was at Deal on the 24 inst.
The screw steamer *Sacramento*, 14, was at Lisbon December 23.
The supply steamer *Supply* sailed from Boston on the 24th.
The Monitor *Mahopac* arrived at Fort Monroe, January 18th, from off Wilmington, in tow of the United States gunboat *Rhode Island*.
The gunboat *Lenape* sailed from Fort Monroe, January 19th, for the South.
The supply steamer *Massachusetts*, Lieut. West commanding, arrived at Philadelphia on Sunday from the South Atlantic squadron.
The hull of the gunboat *Indianola*, sunk in the lower Mississippi by the Rebels two years ago, has been raised and found to be in excellent condition. She will be rebuilt.
It is said that the Navy Department designs establishing a European squadron, under command of Rear-Admiral Goldsborough, and will largely increase the Brazil and East India squadrons.
The screw steamer *Colorado*, 62, is to come to the Boston Yard for repairs, and will go thence to Europe as the flagship of Rear-Admiral Goldsborough.
The class of midshipmen recently graduated at the Academy at Newport is to be distributed among the vessels of the Mediterranean fleet. They will be taken out in the *Kearny* and *Colorado*.
The English man-of-war *Galates* arrived at Fort Monroe on the 19th, and saluted the flag, and the salute was responded to from the fort. She carries twenty-six guns, and is commanded by Captain McGuire. She is last from Halifax and Bermuda.

A DISPATCH from Fort Monroe, Jan. 20th, says:—The frigates *Miami*,

Wabash, and *Colorado*, and the greater portion of the larger vessels of Admiral Porter's fleet recently operating against Fort Fisher, have returned, and are now anchored in Hampton Roads.

A San Francisco telegram, dated Jan. 21st, says:—The Monitor *Cam-ack* steamed into the bay to-day, and has sailed on her trial trip to the Mare Island Navy Yard, where she will be fitted up for service. Commander Woodworth will probably take charge of her.

From a report of the Provost-Marshal-General, presented to Congress, it appears that there were 67,687 Naval enlistments from the 17th of April, 1861, till February 24, 1864, all of which were credited to the quota of the several States in which the enlistments took place.

Acting Assistant Paymaster Frank H. Swan, one of the officers who volunteered for the expedition to destroy the Rebel ram *Albatross*, has been exchanged, and will soon return to his home in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

The Naval rendezvous at New Bedford was closed on Saturday of last week, Commander Totten, with the officers in charge, having been ordered to Hoboken, N. J., to organize a rendezvous at that place. It is understood that the suspension will be but temporary, the office rooms being still retained by the Government.

The United States gunboat *Albatross*, from Portsmouth, N. H., bound to Mobile Bay, was towed up to Philadelphia, 17th inst., in consequence of having encountered a violent hurricane from the northwest on the 14th instant, during which she lost smoke stack, foretopmast, and sustained other damage, which compelled her to put into Philadelphia for repairs.

The following is a list of additional prizes ready for distribution at the Fourth Auditor's office, January 21:—*New London* captured the *Zulima*, Port Royal, captured twelve bales of cotton; *Roaduck*, captured the *Gopher*; *Santiago de Cuba*, captured the *A. D. Vance*; *Pulbury*, captured six bales of cotton; *George Mangham*, captured canoe and cargo; *Colorado*, *Samuel Rotann*, and *Rachel Seaman*, captured the *Cuba*, alias *Culhoun*.

The American Consul at Havana, sends to Collector Draper, New York, a curious piece of intelligence—a report that the Rebels are staking out the harbor of St. Marks, on the western coast of Florida, in order to make it available for blockade-runners. St. Marks is on the St. Marks river, and is the seaport of Tallahassee, the capital of Florida, with which it is connected by a railroad twenty-six miles long. Vessels drawing eight feet of water can enter the harbor.

The light-draft iron-clad *Sandusky*, which has been for the past two years building at Pittsburg, Pa., was successfully launched on Tuesday of last week. But few persons were present to witness the launch, owing to the fact that no public announcement that it was to take place was made. The boat is similar in every respect to the *Marietta*, which was launched from the same Yard some weeks since. Both boats will be towed to the Point, where the turrets and armament will be placed aboard.

We have the following facts from the Boston Navy Yard:—The iron-clad *Chimo*, a torpedo boat, sailed on Sunday for New York, in tow. Storeship Supply is about to sail for Beaufort, and will soon be followed by supply brig *Sea Foam*. Side-wheel steamer *Connecticut*, 10, is coaling for a Southern voyage. Side-wheel steamers *Paul Jones*, 7, and *Maakaka*, 8, and screw steamer *Circassian*, 5, are preparing for sea. Screw steamer *Wachusett*, 10, is having her bilge keel taken off at Simpson's dock, East Boston.

There has recently been added to the fleet of steam tugs, by the bureau of construction, two vessels, the *Palos* and *Leydon*, named in honor of the ports from which Columbus set out in discovering this continent. Their cylinders are 44 by 30 inches. The contractor is Jan. Tetlow, of Boston, who has already four contracts of vessels of the same class. The tugs *Pilgrim* and *Pinta*, the former building at Wilmington, Del., and the latter at Chester, Penn., will be completed in hull and machinery before the 1st of February. The contractors give them a thorough outfit.

The steamship *Atlanta*, Captain John Pennington, from Mobile Bay 19th inst., arrived at this port on the 24th, having on board one thousand bales of cotton on account of the Rebel Government, the proceeds of which are to be expended in purchasing blankets, clothing, &c., for the Rebel prisoners now held by our Government. The cotton is in charge of Captain Frank G. Noyes, of Major-General Granger's staff, and was delivered to him on the 13th, by the Rebel authorities at Mobile, outside of their obstructions, from their steamer *Waverley*.

Captain Corbett, ex-commander of the steamer *Sea King*, alias *Shenandoah*, was brought before the magistrate at London on the 6th, charged with having enlisted, or attempted to enlist, British subjects for service in the "Confederate Navy." The solicitor who appeared on behalf of the Government to prosecute, stated the case against the prisoner, who took the vessel to Madeira, and there announced to the crew that she was intended and sold for a cruiser, and urged them to enlist in the service. Evidence was given in support, when the case was remanded, the prisoner being admitted to bail in £500, and two securities of £2,000 each.

The fine prize steamer *Julia*, which arrived at Boston on the 19th, was captured about fifty miles south of Charleston on the 20th ult. She had put into Alligator Creek for fuel, when she was discovered by screw steamer *Acacia*, 5, and thus made an easy prize. The officers and crew of the blockade-runner made their escape before her capture. The *Julia* was brought North by Acting-Master Barrymore of the *Acacia*, who has distinguished himself in various actions, and has risen from a cabin boy to his present rank. Fleet Judge Cowley, of Admiral Dahlgren's staff, and Captain W. S. Gillespie, of the *Brasiliere*, came home in the *Julia* as passengers.

The United States Monitor *Palapoco* was destroyed off Charleston at two o'clock A.M. on the 17th inst., while on picket duty, by a Rebel torpedo. For some time past the Navy had been engaged in removing torpedoes from Charleston harbor, by dragging for them in small boats. Since the capture of Savannah the work had greatly increased, as the Rebels had sown torpedoes in the harbor, in the greatest number, to prevent the Navy from aiding in the siege of Charleston that they expect General Sherman to inaugurate. On the night of the 16th, as usual, a number of boats were sent up to drag for these machines, and the Monitor *Palapoco*, Lieutenant-Commander Quackenbush, was sent up to a point near Fort Sumter to cover the boats. She came to an anchor and the regular watches were stationed as usual at their respective places. Nothing unusual occurred until the *Palapoco* swung to an ebb tide, at about 2 o'clock in the morning, when she passed over a torpedo, exploded it, and went to the bottom like a piece of lead, carrying down with her seven officers and about 65 men. The names of the officers saved are: Lieutenant-Commander Quackenbush; Lieutenant Sampson; Acting-Ensign H. P. Bashford; Assistant Engineer Reynolds; Assistant Engineer Ryan.

OBITUARY.

COLONEL LOUIS BELL.

COLONEL LOUIS BELL, of the Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, recently acting Brigadier-General, was severely wounded while gallantly leading his brigade at the victorious attack upon Fort Fisher on Sunday last, and died of his injuries on Monday morning. Colonel BELL was a native of Chester, N. H., son of the late Governor SAMUEL BELL, and was twenty-eight years of age. He graduated at Brown University in 1853, and commenced practice at Farmington, N. H., in 1857, where he was located at the opening of the war. In 1860 he was Solicitor for Strafford county.

In April, 1861, Colonel BELL was offered and accepted the captaincy of a company of the First New Hampshire regiment of three months' men, and served during the campaign of that organization. Returning home, he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, and upon the resignation of Colonel WHIFFLE in March, 1862, was made commander of the regiment. Colonel BELL was for some time a member of General SHERMAN's staff, and was Inspector-General of the "Department of the South" from November, 1861, to March, 1862. Previously to the Wilmington expedition he was several times a temporary brigade commander, and served bravely at Pocotaligo, S. C., and during the memorable siege of Fort Wagner. By long and faithful service, the deceased proved himself a brave and noble soldier, and his death will carry sorrow to many hearts.

Colonel BELL leaves two brothers—Chief Justice BELL, of Manchester, and Dr. JOHN BELL, a surgeon in the United States Army. Another brother was the lamented Dr. LUTHER V. BELL, of the McLean Asylum. The deceased married a daughter of the Rev. Dr. BURTON, of Concord, N. H. She survives him, together with two small children.

THE REBEL NAVY.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Jan. 21.]

At the present time the United States has the most formidable Naval force afloat. Great Britain has about fifty line-of-battle ships and forty frigates ready for service. France commands about forty-six screw liners, six iron-plated ships and fifty steam frigates. Both these Powers have also a great number of vessels of various other classifications. But the United States has nearly six hundred war vessels in commission just now, mounting 4,443 guns and measuring 467,967 tons; or half as much as was the total registered commercial tonnage of the whole country in 1843. Thus, in numbers, in measure, and in ostensible strength, this is a more imposing array than France and England can conjointly bring together, on a sudden notice, at the present time: whether it is equally formidable in the grand essentials of Naval warfare is much doubted. But there can be no doubt of the fact that we have nothing, or next to nothing, in the shape of a Navy, to put in contrast with a force so stupendous. If we had it must have been by a miracle. How else could we master the countless and overwhelming obstacles in the way? And, yet we have a Navy—a working, resultful, gallant Navy. Amazing as the fact may seem—miracle or no miracle—the fearful impediments in the way have not left us without a Navy; a small, resolute, but damaging Navy, as the enemy have found to their cost. The monstrous magnitude of the Naval force operating against us may, in itself, be calculated to overshadow our own; yet we have it, and have reason to be proud of it—none the less that so little has accomplished so much.

The circumstances connected with our naval enterprise require a reticence that mingles much of the merit of our achievements. These circumstances make of the Secretary of the Navy's reports a sealed book, and frequently subject all connected with the service to temporary obloquy. But the time of triumphant explanation will come some day. Meanwhile, there are some things which may now be said; some facts which ought to be now mentioned, because they can be safely mentioned. Some days ago we exhibited some statements of an exceedingly gratifying character touching the operations of our Navy. We have since extended our inquiries, and will now lay before our readers and the country some additional particulars, which will show that if our Navy is "a myth" in popular estimation, it is practically "a power" which has smitten the enemy sorely in his tenderest point.

The total expenditures on account of our Navy, since the beginning of the war, does not exceed \$80,000,000, or as much as it had cost the enemy to build its condemned monitors up to June 1864. What have we to show for this sum? In noble efforts, that the open hostility, if not the secret perfidy of foreign powers have frustrated, we could show enough to do full credit to the whole amount. That, however, would be professed in all except proof of glorious endeavor. But we can show this—the destruction of one hundred and ninety-one vessels belonging to the enemy's commerce. That for a direct blow, dealt at the

very vitals of our foe, is much; and there is much more within it and beyond it, and because of it, of an equally telling character.

We have come to be concise and cautious, but may be precise at the same time. Take, then, a hurried *resumé* of some particulars to which we have gained access. The steamer *Sunder*, under the gallant SHERMAN, captured seventeen vessels in her cruise, from July 3, 1861, to January 17, 1862—three ships, five brigs, six barks and three schooners, for a half year's work. The *Alabama*, under the same naval hero, captured sixty-three vessels from September, 1862, to January, 1864. The greater number of these were very valuable ships, and all but nine of them were burned at sea. In the number is included the United States gunboat *Hatteras* (eight guns, one hundred and eight men and eighteen officers) which was sunk in open fight, on the 11th of January, 1863. To this list of the *Alabama's* captures have to be added two vessels brought by her tender, the *Tuscaloosa*. One of her captures was subsequently commissioned as a cruiser under our flag, as in the case of other captures by other cruisers.

The steamer *Tallahassee*, under the command of the intrepid TAYLOR WOOD, captured thirty-three vessels during the month of August, 1864. His dashing cruise along the American coast, northward, was shorn of its richer fruits by the chilling courtesy of the British authorities in Nova Scotia, on whose unfair conduct we had occasion to animadvert at the time. Of the captures made by Commander WOOD, two were ships, four brigs, and four barks, the remainder being, for the most part, sea-going and large-tonnaged schooners. Only five of the whole number were bonded, and two released, all the rest having been either burned or scuttled.

The *Chickamauga*, under the command of JOHN WILKINSON, who has no professional superior in the service, in a short cruise last November, captured seven vessels—one ship, four barks, and two schooners. The *Georgia*, in a few weeks, captured and destroyed seven ships and two barks. The *Florida*—but enough of such details. Here are the shorter mathematical results of all:—Fifty-eight ships, thirty-two brigs, forty-one barks, fifty-seven schooners—pilot boats and small steamers "extra"—all disposed of at sea since the war by a power which has, popularly, "no Navy."

The Society of California Pioneers in San Francisco, having elected General SHERMAN an honorary member of that body, the General thus replied:—"I recall with exceeding pleasure my early adventures in that land of gold. I think I learned during my wanderings over its plains and mountains the lessons of patience and endurance which have enabled me to lead armies successfully in this war. I beg you will convey to the members of your society my grateful remembrance of their many acts of kindness and favor; and I beg that you will personally accept my thanks for the very happy manner in which you have communicated their kind action."

ANOTHER fine work of art has just been placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington. It represents Commodore PERRY leaving his flagship after the destruction of that vessel, and making his escape to another ship of the squadron. There are nine life-like figures in the boat, and the Commodore is in the midst of them, standing erect, undaunted and firm, in all the conscious dignity of a great soul amid imminent peril and danger. The artist is WM. H. POWELL.

GENERAL GILLMORE dedicates his recent report to "The Honorable EDWIN M. STANTON, for his truth and candor as a man, his purity as a patriot, and his wisdom, energy, and justice as a public officer."

[Advertisement.]

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See in another column: "The Pen is Mightier than the Sword."

MARRIED.

[Announcements of marriages should be paid for at the rate of fifty cents each.]

WHITE—HOPKINS.—In Boston, January 17, by Rev. George W. Gardner, EDITH M. WHITE, Surgeon of the Thirty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, to Miss ANNE L. HOPKINS, daughter of Franklin Hopkins, Esq.

HARTWELL—TOWNSEND.—On Saturday, January 21, at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. Dr. Samuel Osgood, Colonel CHARLES A. HARTWELL, U.S.A., to Miss GUSSE, youngest daughter of Timothy Townsend, Esq., all of New York.

JOHNSTON—JENKINS.—At the Church of the Transfiguration, New York, January 21, by Rev. Dr. G. H. Houghton, Lieutenant LOUIS M., youngest son of the late Francis Upton Johnston, M.D., of New York, to Miss MARY, youngest daughter of the late John C. Jenkins, M.D., Esq., Natchez, Miss.

ELY—GREENE.—In Norwich, Conn., January 13, Colonel WILLIAM G. ELY, late of the Eighteenth Connecticut Volunteers, to Miss AUGUSTA E., youngest daughter of the late William F. Greene, Esq.

CROWELL—SLAUGHT.—In Bergen, at the residence of the bride's father, on Thursday, January 19, by Rev. C. Larew, Major ROBERT C. CROWELL, U.S.A., of Missouri, to Miss MARIA H., daughter of B. Slaughter, Esq. No cards.

DIED.

PORTER.—Killed in the naval assault on Fort Fisher, Sunday, January 15, Lieutenant BENJAMIN H. PORTER, U.S.N., son of James G. and Sarah G. Porter, of Lockport, N. Y.

COGSWELL.—At Albany, on Saturday, January 21, MASON F. COGSWELL, M.D., Assistant Surgeon, in charge of the U. S. hospital at that place.

WHEELLOCK.—In Washington, January 21, Brevet Brigadier-General CHARLES WHEELLOCK, U.S.V., aged 52 years.

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